

MIDLANDS

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

THE ESSENTIAL
NIGHTLIFE +
CLUBBING
GUIDE

ISSUE 220 £1.60 AUGUST 2015

INSIDE

**KIMBERLY
WYATT**

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
WITH THE FORMER
PUSSYCAT DOLL

CRUSH

THE NEW MUSICAL FROM
THE CREATOR OF
'BAD GIRLS'

BRUM DJ DEAD

TRIBUTES PAID AFTER
POPULAR GAY SCENE
DJ MYKEE MACKENZIE
FOUND DEAD



PEARL

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE STAR

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This month...

04



Local Life Story: Matthew Harper

20



Domestic Violence in LGBT relationships

12



Exclusive interview with Drag Race star, Pearl

21



Summer of Pride: Previews and pictures

16



We talk to Pussycat Doll! Kimberly Wyatt!

36



Fashion: Let's go back to black!

18



Crush: A new musical coming to the Midlands

58



What's on: The Bodyguard Musical in Brum

REGULARS:

Local Life Story 4

News 6

Style: Fashion 36

Style: Gadgets 38

What's On 58

LGBT Community 60

Escort Directory 62

Gay Classified 63

Sauna Directory 64

The Last Word 66



39 YOUR 18-PAGE GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AT YOUR GAY VENUES

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The Midlands news website for the LGBT community



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Matthew Harper

**Bar & Restaurant owner and
Walsall Pride Secretary**
Walsall

Born: Walsall
Star sign: Taurus
Age: 32

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This issue our focus turns on Walsall Pride Secretary Matthew Harper, owner of Walsall's Red Lion bar and Arbor Lights restaurant.



About Matt

Where did you grow up, Matt?

I'm a Midlands boy through and through. I was brought up in a small village called Great Wyrley, just outside of Cannock. I now live in Walsall.

Single or attached?

I'm very happily attached to Jonathon. We've been together for nearly three years.

What makes you happy?

I'm a big family man and love spending time with them. I love my cars and enjoy going to car shows with my classic Minis - or even taking the roof down on my BMW and going for a drive.

What makes you sad?

I think the big C affects everyone; seeing people who you love go through so much pain - and they fight so hard. I like to help people as much as possible, and being unable to physically help them through it makes me sad.

What makes you angry?

I'm a small-business owner and get very angry when people talk behind my back, create rumours or just cause trouble. It's hard enough to make your business succeed with brewery prices and rising bills, you don't need the extra hassle of gossips. Also, I know competition is good, but when venues constantly fight for custom it gets annoying. Work together. Customers will

appreciate it more and it makes life a lot easier.

If you could change any one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I'd change my body. I work long, hard hours. Often eating at wrong times or reaching for something quick and easy has taken its toll.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

I remember one time going out with Champagne Shirley. We drank so, so much that I don't know what happened or how I got home. The following morning I rang around to find out what had happened. All I could find out was that I was at the Scott Arms traffic lights! To this day I don't know how I got home.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?

I knew I was different when I was at high school, but I tried to suppress my feelings.

When did you come out?

When I was younger I tried to fit the 'normal' lifestyle, so didn't actually come out until my early 20s.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

I wasn't the academic type at school. I loved music and joined the school band, so spent a lot of time doing that. It got me out of

other lessons! I enjoyed food technology, and that's where my passion grew to become a chef.

Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?

It was a lady at college. She was an amazing support and put me in touch with the LGBT ice-breakers group on Hurst Street.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?

I think you have to find that one person who you can trust - perhaps not even a family member. You can tell them whatever you're feeling and ask for advice. There are so many people who've gone through the same feelings, and most people are happy to talk about their experiences.

Have you ever had any experiences with the opposite sex?

Yes, when I was younger, I was trying to fit the 'normal' lifestyle and did so for a while - but in all honesty, it just secured my feelings and made me more aware that I was gay.

Your Career

What was your first job after leaving school?

I went to work with my dad during the week as an electrician's apprentice. Then, at the weekend, I used to work in a garden

centre/farm shop. Neither would I like to repeat!

When you were younger, what did you want to be?

I've always wanted to be a chef and own my own restaurant.

Why did you decide to become a chef?

When I was younger my family did lots of cooking at home - so between my mom and dad I had a good, basic understanding of cooking. When I was at high school this passion carried on. I began food technology with the hope of entering catering college when I left. On leaving, I joined Birmingham College of Food and completed all my training there. I also had two placements - one in London and one in the US. Both of these experiences play a great part in my catering life today.

What's your involvement with Walsall Pride?

I'm the Walsall Pride Secretary and have been working with Pride for four years now. I've helped to make it a free event by fundraising and getting funding from other sponsors. We do so much fundraising for the event. I look after the Walsall Pride Ball, which is in its third year. The 2015 Ball was the best one so far. It's a great event and brings together the venues involved in Pride.

You own the Arbor Lights restaurant in Walsall. What makes it stand out?

The Arbor Lights is now doing more and more functions and weddings and is set to get its wedding licence soon. We offer a whole wedding package for couples who want a hassle-free time. We offer everything under one roof. This is proving popular with couples. It means we take all the stress out of the day for them. We're set to have our first of many gay marriages here next year.

What have you got in store for your bar, the Red Lion, in 2015?

The Red Lion is my home. Over the past eight years it's been a host to many different events. We have Walsall Pride coming up this month and we play host to the Cabaret Marquee, which goes from strength to strength every year. I'd like to thank staff, customers and acts who support me year after year, helping me

create an atmosphere which people enjoy.

What's the biggest challenge you face in running your venues?

Time. I'm a very hands-on manager and like to do things myself. But running two venues and being in a relationship is impossible, so I try to hand over jobs to others.

How rewarding do you find running the Red Lion and the Arbor Lights?

I find it very rewarding. At the Arbor Lights we provide the best place to eat in Walsall, with a stylish, comfortable atmosphere, excellent food and amazing service. I enjoy watching people having an amazing meal and then seeing them come back time after time. The Red Lion is totally different. It's a town centre venue where you can pop in for a quick drink on your way home, or pop in on a Saturday night for some amazing entertainment, all free of charge.

Where would you like to see your venues in five years' time?

I'd like to see them busier than ever, of course! I think the credit crunch is still affecting people, and people are now thinking more about how they spend their money. Being brewery-owned I can't go down the line of cheap drinks. However, I think providing a quality night with great food and drink encourages people to realise it's worth paying that little bit more.

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?

My earliest memory of the scene is going for a drink in Birmingham after an ice-breaker meeting. I was so nervous, having never set foot in a gay bar before. The group took me into Missing, where I remember Mrs Mills being on stage doing 'ring those bells'. I was amazed at how busy it was, and how many other gay people were in there.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

Glamour, to me, is like another mother. She's been working with

me so long now, and every week she entertains. She's also part of our in-house show, The Glamourettes, with Samantha Rouge and Ego Dance (Jonathon and Jo). She's contributed so much to making the Red Lion weekends what they are today. Jonathon and Jo also do a fab job of promoting my venues, offering stunts and fire skills, among other things. They attract a lot of business to the venues. I do find it hard to say who my favourite act is. I love so many different Drag acts on the scene. All of them bring something different.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

I really wouldn't like to choose one person. The gay scene has so many individuals who work hard to create the scene we have today. The scene itself is nothing without the businesses who create a night out to suit everyone's needs and wants. It's also about the contribution of all the customers and supporters, who help create the atmosphere and the amazing times we have.

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

I enjoy its versatility. Each bar has its own niche and attracts people to it. You can have a very varied night out by visiting just a few different bars.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene's changed over the years?

I've certainly noticed lots of change since I first went out on the scene. Bars come and go, as do owners and acts. It's constantly changing.

How would you change the Midlands gay scene?

I'd make Paul and Pedro reopen Glamorous! That was the bar to go to. It always provided a happy and safe atmosphere, as well as amazing acts. However, he'd have to carry on working for me on a Friday and Saturday!

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

A night out? I'm not sure what one of those is! I work so much that nights out are very few and far



between - but as long as I spend it with the other half, I'm happy!

What do you do to relax?

I love a good soak in the bath and then watch movies on TV. Other than that I like to spend time restoring my Minis.

What do you enjoy on telly?

I like so many different things when it comes to TV - Total Divas, How To Get Away With Murder, Drag Race, to name but a few.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

I do spend a lot of time on the Internet, between Facebook, Trip Advisor and my own website. They're my main three.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

I've travelled a fair bit, so it's hard to say which place I like the most. As long as it's hot and has a beach, I'm happy! We went to Australia in January and I really enjoyed it. The people and the place is so nice. I'd love to go back.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Ryan Phillippe from Cruel Intentions or Mitch Hower from Skins.

What's your favourite book?

It's got to be Harry Potter.

Half empty or half full?

Definitely half full.

What's your favourite food?

I really enjoy shellfish and love a bowl of mussels.

And how about your favourite drink?

A Black Russian. Also the odd shot of After Shock. Or a double Sambuca and blackcurrant.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Hard choice. Madonna would probably win, though!

If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?

I don't do selfies!

Editor-in-Chief

Martin Monahan
martin.monahan@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281777

Managing Director:

Paul Oliver
paul.oliver@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281711

Editor

Ryan Humphreys
ryan@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281722

Sales & Marketing:

Lai Woodhouse
lai@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281703

Chris Horton

chris.horton@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281704

Admin/Subscriptions:

Adrian Parker
adrian.parker@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281714

Graphic Designers:

Lisa Wassell
Chris Atherton
Adrian Parker

Accounts Administrator

Julia Perry
julia@21stco.com
01743 281717

Website Development:

Eddie Payne

Contributors:

Steve Ball
Graham Bostock

Head Office:

13-14 Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire. SY2 6AE

What's On
MAGAZINE GROUP

THE UK'S LARGEST REGIONAL
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We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

SCENE Tributes paid after top Birmingham gay scene DJ found dead

Top Birmingham gay-scene DJ Mykee Mackenzie has been found dead at his home above gay village venue Missing Bar, where he also worked.

Mackenzie, 34, was found dead at around 9am on Monday 13 July. The cause of his death has yet to be confirmed.

Birmingham's gay scene has been mourning the loss of a talented, much-loved and always smiling character who was extremely popular with the scene's regular party-goers.

David Dindol, from Missing Bar, said in a statement: "We're absolutely shocked. Mykee has worked at so many venues on Hurst Street over the years, is one of the brightest characters to have graced the gay scene and will be dearly missed."

Commenting on the news, **Lawrence Barton**, owner of the Nightingale Club, said: "I'm completely devastated. Mykee was someone that I loved who's been a really good friend and colleague of mine over the years and he'll be deeply missed. My thoughts go out to his friends and family during this sad time."

An online fundraising campaign has been set up to help raise money towards the cost of Mykee's funeral. Alongside this, Missing Bar and many venues around Birmingham's gay scene will be hosting fundraising events in Mykee's memory. There will be a 'hats for Mykee' theme, with replicas of Mykee's signature red flatcap available for purchase. All money raised will go towards the funeral fund. Any money left over after covering the cost of the funeral will be donated to charity in Mykee's name, at the request of his family.

Funeral set for Wednesday 12 August

The funeral is set to take place on Wednesday 12 August at St Bridget's Church in Northfield. Mykee will be leaving Missing Bar at 11am, with the funeral taking place at 12pm - timings are to be confirmed.



Following the service, a commitment service will take place at Lodge Hill Crematorium in Selly Oak, followed by a private wake held at Missing Bar for close friends and family. An open-to-all wake will then take place from 4pm at Missing Bar, featuring entertainment and food.

Mykee's family have requested that nobody wears black at the funeral or wake, and that everyone wears a red hat. They want the day to be as extravagant as he was. They have also said that any drag queen wishing to go in drag should feel free to do so.

Mykee, whose real name was Michael Horton, won Best Bar DJ in the 2014 Midlands Zone Readers' Awards and was runner-up for the same award in 2015.

SEXUAL HEALTH HIV testing to become routine in 10 Coventry GP surgeries

HIV testing in Coventry is set to become a routine part of registering with a GP at 10 surgeries across the city.

The Medical Xpress reports that patients registering with the pilot surgeries will be offered a simple finger-prick blood test, with results available in less than a minute.

Coventry has the highest prevalence of HIV in the West Midlands. The new initiative, aimed at improving early detection of the condition, is being led by a partnership involving Birmingham City University, the Integrated Sexual Health Service (Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust), Travel Klinix and Coventry City Council's public health team.

More than three in every 1,000 people in Coventry aged between 15 and 59 are diagnosed with HIV. Estimates for the UK suggest that over a quarter of people with the condition remain undiagnosed.

The effectiveness of the pilot will be evaluated by researchers at Birmingham City University, who will then explore the potential for expanding the model more widely.

CHARITY Appeal for donations to make LGBT network sustainable

LGBT Wolverhampton's offices



Local LGBT network and charity LGBT Wolverhampton has appealed for donations to help ensure it remains sustainable.

The network wants to continue offering free services but doesn't currently receive any ongoing funding to cover its costs.

LGBT Wolverhampton re-

quires approximately £56,000 per year to cover its basic overheads and the Chief Executive's salary. The network is appealing for people to pledge just £3 a month, via standing order, so that it can continue to offer vital services to the community. For more information or to make a pledge, email martha@lgbt-wolverhampton.org.uk



Information available at
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

Service provided by Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent Partnership NHS Trust

Free, private and confidential sexual health checks to gay & bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM).

Celts Narborough Road Sauna Clinic:

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: Celts Narborough Road Sauna, 38 Narborough Road, Leicester, LE3 0BQ



City Celts Sauna Clinic:

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 3pm - 5pm

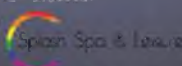
Place: City Celts Sauna, 33 New Bond Street, Leicester, LE1 4RQ

Splash Spa & Leisure Clinic:

Date: Every Thursday

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: Splash Spa & Leisure, 61 Bedford Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR



You can also check out **Trade Sexual Health**
www.tradesexualhealth.com

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

LesbianGayBisexualTransYouth

GALAXY

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust

For more info
info@galaxy youth.co.uk
0300 123 0970



Galaxy is a youth group for young people aged 19 and under from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or unsure.



Gay Galaxy youth Centre

SEXUAL HEALTH **Birmingham LGBT launches new sexual health service**

Birmingham LGBT Centre



From 10 August, Birmingham LGBT is taking responsibility for delivering sexual health services to LGBT people in Birmingham and Solihull.

The new sexual health service is called Umbrella and will focus on health promotion and preventative care for the community. Birmingham LGBT will work in partnership with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, lead agency in the Umbrella system, to deliver a range of new and expanded services to the LGBT community.

Umbrella is a uniquely comprehensive partnership of local providers, including six NHS clinics, almost 100 pharmacists, GPs and third sector partners.

The aim is to deliver better sexual health outcomes by providing people with the knowledge to avoid sexually transmitted disease (STI) and HIV, and to explain how to seek help if they're experiencing sexual coercion or violence.

There will be a phased roll-out of the new services. Initially, the current services offered by Healthy Gay Life will continue to operate in a new venue, the LGBT Centre. The services include advice and support around sexual health and testing, and the provision of free condoms and lube.

New services starting from 13 August include a new drop-in symptomatic clinic, with extended opening hours from midday until 8pm

every Thursday.

Self-sampling kits testing for HIV, chlamydia, syphilis, Hep B and gonorrhoea will also be available from the LGBT Centre during its regular opening hours.

Over the next twelve months Birmingham LGBT will provide seven days a week, twelve hours a day access to advice and support, plus self-sampling, a monthly transsexual wellbeing clinic and a monthly Well Woman clinic with a sexual health focus.

There will also be more outreach and testing in community venues and a peer-mentoring programme focused on HIV prevention. A range of information and resources for the LGBT community on sexual health and healthy relationships will be available too.

It's hoped that improved access to services generally will result in increased testing and will lead to increased chlamydia diagnosis rates in the 15-to-24 age group and a reduction in the number of late HIV diagnoses.

Prompter access to diagnosis and treatment will result in fewer repeat STIs and less transmission of HIV, STI and blood-borne viruses (BBV) within the population.

Finally, a new LGBT Independent Advocate will ensure the community is more aware of issues around the subject of sexual violence. It's hoped that this will increase identification of, and support for, victims of sexual exploitation.

NATIONAL NEWS

CHARITY **HIV charity Terrence Higgins Trust fires its chief executive**

Terrence Higgins Trust, the largest provider of HIV and sexual health services in the UK's voluntary sector, has fired its chief executive, reports *The Guardian*.

According to the newspaper: 'A statement by the charity's board of trustees said Dr Rosemary Gillespie, who had only been in her post for 15 months, had been asked to step down with immediate effect. It said a change of leadership was required.'

ENTERTAINMENT **Gay stars 'waiting for the right woman', BBC claimed**

A former BBC newsreader has revealed that the corporation officially claimed stars like Larry Grayson and John Inman were just 'waiting for the right woman to come along' because no-one could be openly gay, reports the *Daily Mail*.

According to the newspaper: 'John Nicolson, who hosted BBC Breakfast and Watchdog before becoming an MP, said the press office staff at the corporation were 'aghast' when he revealed he had told the media he was gay. 'He said that as recently as the year 2000, the BBC told him that "no-one in any field had ever been openly gay".'

POLITICS **Northern Ireland: Almost 70% of people in favour of gay marriage**

An Independent survey has found that almost 70 per cent of people are in favour of legalising equal marriage in Northern Ireland, reports *sosogay.co.uk*.

According to the website: 'The survey, carried out by Ipsos MORI, found that 68 per cent of adults in the province believe that gay couples should be allowed to marry, a figure even higher than the 62 per cent who voted Yes in the recent marriage equality referendum in the Republic of Ireland.'

SCENE **Nottingham's NG1 venue confirms it's dropping its 'gay club' brand**

After much speculation, one of Nottingham's most popular nightclubs has gone on record to confirm that it no longer brands itself as a 'gay club'.

The Nottingham Post reports that NG1 on Lower Parliament Street - which opened in 2000

and was aimed at the city's LGBT community - made the decision two years ago to gradually move from the gay scene to a mainstream crowd. The revelation came just ahead of last month's scaled-down Nottingham Pride festival in the city centre.



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WED 5 AUG - SAT 5 SEP

ALEXANDRA BURKE
IN
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THE MUSICAL

FROM £18

TUE 8 & WED 9 SEP

A Sardis, White Production, co-produced with Les Nuits de Fourvière, Shanghai International Arts Festival and Sylvie Guillem

Sylvie Guillem
Life in Progress

Choreography
Mats Ek
William Forsythe
Akram Khan
Russell Maliphant

FROM £15

THU 10 - SAT 12 SEP

ALAN CARR

YAP, YAP, YAP!

£30

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VINCENT SIMONE & FLAVIA CACACE

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MON 28 SEP - TUE 6 OCT

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Swan Lake

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Annie

Starting
CRIS REVEL HOKWOOD
as
MISS HANNIGAN

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MON 2 - SAT 7 NOV

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JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

TIM ROGERS GLENN CARTER RACHEL ADEDEJI

FROM £18

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FRI 13 & SAT 14 NOV

DARA O BRIAIN

Grand
Trouble

FROM £20

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GENERAL AETHUR CYMRU

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Wales Millennium Centre and West Yorkshire Playhouse
in association with Royal Exchange Theatre

THU 19 - SAT 21 NOV

SWEENEY TODD

Book and Lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**
Libretto by **Hugh Wheeler**
With Music Adapted by **Christopher Bond**
Produced by **Harold Prince**
Original Production by **Jonathan Tunick**

Sweeney Todd

THE SWEENEY TODD
IN FLEET STREET

FROM £15

THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

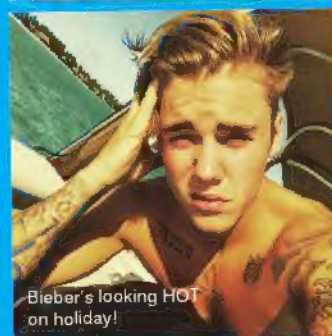
Here's what we've been looking at online...

SNAP HAPPY!

Our favourite pictures from Instagram...



Cuteness alert! Years & Years' Ollie and Clean Bandit's Neil are in love! Awww!



Bieber's looking HOT on holiday!



Aye aye, Captain! It's the lovely Jack Laugher...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

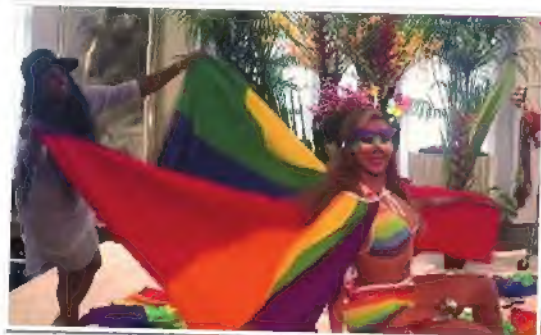
Beyoncé celebrates US same-sex marriage ruling...

...by dressing up in rainbows!

As you may be aware, the US has recently passed a ruling making same-sex marriage legal in every state across the country. Hooray!

First Lady of Pop Beyoncé responded perfectly to the historic ruling - on her Instagram account, she posted a cute video of her dancing in all manner of rainbow-styled outfits and costumes.

Rock on, B, rock on!
bit.ly/1MK0Wzp



WATCH THIS!

The best video we've been watching this month...



If you were walking down the street and someone yelled the word 'faggot' at you, how would you respond? One of our favourite videos from last month sees thirty men of all different ages and backgrounds explain what their response would be were it to happen to them. The results will surprise you. Some embrace it, others are appalled. Check it out here: youtu.be/dIFHTAM37wo

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PEARL

The *RuPaul's Drag Race* star dishes the dirt about her time on every gay's favourite talent show

Pearl, real name Matthew James Lent, appeared on the seventh season of hit US talent show RuPaul's Drag Race. Having finished as a runner-up behind Violet Chachki, she now tells Midlands Zone about her experience on the show - and also explains why she feels she doesn't owe everything to the Drag Race producers. Pearl also chats about her new album, *Pleasure*, and the reason why her video for *Love Slave* is oh so sexy...

What first inspired you to take up drag?

If I ever had any doubts about my gender identity, it wasn't until I tried drag. It was that which helped answer any questions I might've had. As a child I'd always wondered what a life on the other side would've been like. Now I realise how happy I am as myself and sometimes as Pearl.

What was the experience like when you first started?

My first time in drag was great and I got a lot of attention from it. For something I'd never done before, I was pretty polished, and people recognised and respected that.

What inspired you to take part in RuPaul's Drag Race?

I respect all of the previous Queens from the past six seasons, but I wanted to represent a more grounded and relatable kind of character.

Looking back, is there anything you would've done differently on the show?

Yes, of course - although there are reasons why I couldn't at the time. I would've invested more in my looks and worked on the finishing touches a bit more - like my synching and padding, for instance. I wouldn't have held back in my challenge performances and I'd maybe have talked a bit more shit about the other contestants to get more air time. You don't get much air time if you're not shading the other Queens.

Were you happy that Violet Chachki won the show?

Violet is literally flawless at everything she does, so I'm not unhappy about losing to her, but obviously I wanted to win.

And were you happy with coming third?

I don't think they ever announced who came second or third, but thank you for assuming I would be third.

How has your relationship with Miss Fame changed after the show?

It hasn't. Miss Fame and I still bunker like sisters, but we love each other.

What did RuPaul's Drag Race achieve for you?

It gave me the opportunity to put Pearl on TV. The rest I've done on my own. A lot of people think Drag Race Queens owe WOW (World Of Wonder Productions) a lifetime of gratitude, but it really depends. A lot of the time being on Drag Race can work against you. Ninety percent of those Queens end up working in their home town bar or end up working in retail, barely travel and still have to hustle. The show doesn't give you a career. I had to make myself interesting enough to find proper management and get booked for shows. There's a lot more pressure to produce a career after being on TV. And there are more expectations put on you than on a Queen who's never participated on Drag Race. When the show's over, WOW doesn't magically make your career happen, they don't book your gigs

and they don't promote you. I have WOW to thank for getting me recognised and out in the public eye but not for getting me remembered.

Since appearing on the show, you've accumulated thousands of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram followers. Were you expecting to acquire such a huge fan base?

I'm very surprised and thankful that people are as interested in me as they are.

"The show doesn't give you a career. I had to make myself interesting enough to find proper management and get booked for shows."

You've got debut album *Pleasure* out - where did the inspiration come from for the music?

I've always had a passion for house music and didn't want to generate another stereotypical 'drag anthem' album.

***Love Slave*, the video for your first single from *Pleasure*, is quite raunchy - did you want something that could be seen as controversial?**

I feel like it could've been raunchier - I don't have much of a cap on sexuality and, as a result, I'm very open minded and find sex very interesting. It's exciting, it's natural and it's free. I think it's important to at least have an open mind, and to respect other people's fetishes even if it's not your thing. I wouldn't consider the video for *Love Slave* that controversial for these reasons.

You're in the UK this month. Are you excited about showing we Brits what you've got?

This will be my second UK tour and it runs through July and August with five stops - one of which is at the Nightingale Club in Birmingham. But yes, I'm excited to do another round in the UK.

UK Drag Race fans are screaming out for their own British version of the show. Would you like to see the show developed internationally?

I really would love RuPaul's Drag Race to spread all over the world, but I fear it will turn into another Top Model and eventually phase itself out in America.

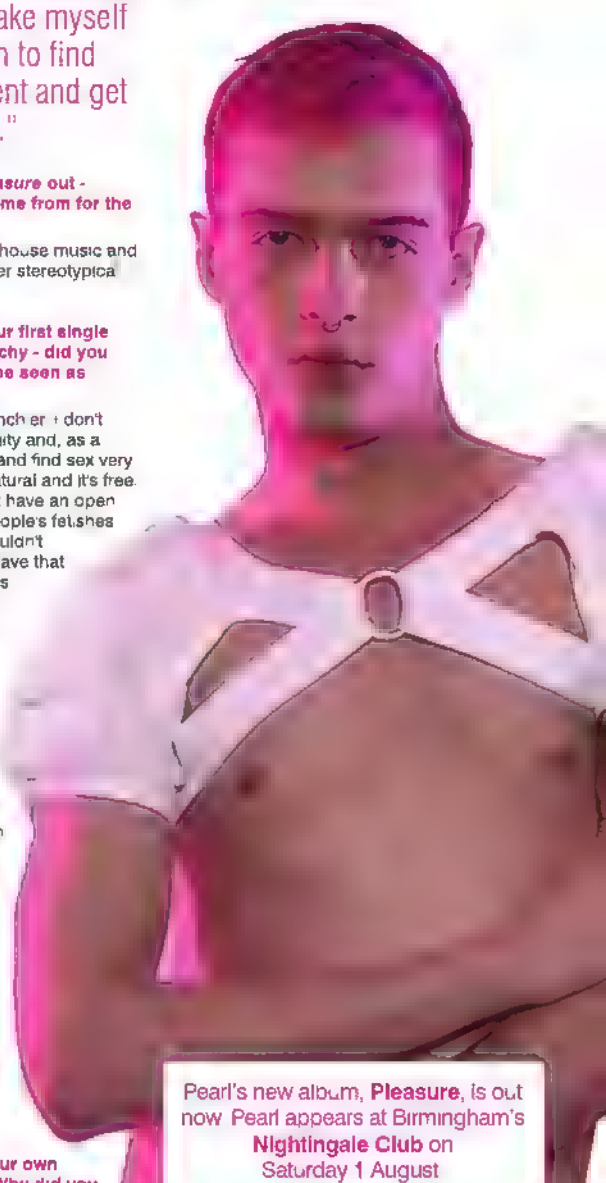
You've also just released your own unisex perfume - *Flazéda*. Why did you

decide to develop your own fragrance?

I was actually approached to make the fragrance and I figured that capitalising on it during these peaking moments in my career was for the best. Flazéda smells amazing and can be worn by anyone, anywhere and at any time.

Finally, where would you like to see yourself in five years' time?

I'd like to have been able to buy my own house.



Pearl's new album, *Pleasure*, is out now. Pearl appears at Birmingham's Nightingale Club on Saturday 1 August.

YOUR

SEXUAL

HEALTH

service

IS

CHANGING

10.08.15

From **August 10 2015 Birmingham LGBT**, supported by Umbrella, will take responsibility for delivering sexual health services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people in Birmingham and Solihull

There will be a phased roll-out of new services. Initially, the services currently offered by Healthy Gay Life will continue to operate, in a new venue, the LGBT Centre, and include

Advice and support around Sexual Health and Testing
Free Condoms and Lube
Counselling & Psychotherapy
Outreach and Testing in Community Venues

New services that will start from August 10 include

A new drop in, symptomatic clinic, with extended opening hours from
1pm – 8pm every Thursday

Self-Sampling Kits, which will test for HIV, Chlamydia, Syphilis, Hep B and Gonorrhoea, will be available from the LGBT Centre during its regular opening hours, and online 24/7

Over the next twelve months Birmingham LGBT will implement the following expanded and new services

7 day a week, 12 hours a day access to advice and support, plus self-sampling, a monthly trans sexual wellbeing clinic, a monthly well woman clinic with a sexual health focus, more outreach and testing in community venues, a peer mentoring programme focused on HIV prevention, a range of information and resources for the LGBT community on sexual health and healthy relationships



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KIMBERLY WYATT

The former Pussycat Doll talks exclusively to Midlands Zone about her new single with DJ Paul Morrell...

Back in 2003, Kimberly Wyatt burst on to the international music scene as part of smash-hit dance pop group Pussycat Dolls. Since then she's gone solo and is set to release a hotly tipped new house track with Coventry DJ and producer Paul Morrell. Here, Kimberly talks to us about the Pussycat Dolls, new single 'Givin' It Up' and her time on BBC One's *Celebrity Masterchef*...

You started off your career as a dancer. Was it something you'd always dreamt of doing?

I started off wanting to be an Olympic gymnast and wanted to take gymnastic lessons. The place where I took the lessons offered different classes for dance, which I really wanted to try. So I tried it and that was it. Dance has always been my first love.

Then came the Pussycat Dolls. Did you ever imagine that the group would become so big and achieve so much success?

Coming from my world of dance - doing music videos, films, television and different shows here and there - no, I couldn't fathom joining a recording group and making it as big as we did. It was literally overnight success with Don't Cha. There are very few people and acts that get to have that happen to them. It's pretty much unfathomable!

Was singing something you could see yourself doing when you were younger?

I loved to sing, but dance was always my first love. When I set out doing scholarships in New York, it was always instilled in me that, in order to broaden my horizons and ensure a great career, I needed to be able to sing. So I took lessons and I did small bits here and there. I did chorus work as a dancer. My first job out of high school was dancing and singing on cruise ships. So I had a few jobs that led up to the Pussycat Dolls, but no, I never set out to be a singer. I fell into singing.

What's your favourite Pussycat Dolls song?

That's a tough one. I think Don't Cha is timeless and classic, and it holds a special place in my heart. But there was something about performing Buttons that was so much fun, so I think I'd have to go with Buttons.

What was the highlight of your career with the Pussycat Dolls?

The biggest highlight for me was probably winning two Moon Men MTV Awards for Best Dance Video and Best Dancing in a Video. I'm not really a trophy girl, although I have a lot, it's just a piece of metal, but to be in a pop group like the Pussycat Dolls means we were pushing dance to the forefront of the music industry. So to walk away with those two Moon Men awards made me feel quite valuable.

You've recently worked with Paul Morrell on a new dance track called 'Givin' It Up'. How did the collaboration come about?

I think Paul has done some great work in the past and I love his sound. He just happened to have this track and it sort of fell in my lap. I gave it a listen, quite connected with it and thought it might be a lot of fun. I jumped in the studio, laid down some vocals and here I am talking about it!

What was Paul like to work with?

He's so sweet. He's just a really sweet guy. He's very inviting, he created a really safe space for me to jump in with him and co-create with him. I was really thankful and grateful.

He's the nicest of human beings and extremely talented.

How would you describe the single?

It's a housey pop song. It's really catchy. It's great for the clubs and summer days. It's a solid song about a breakup that has a great groove to it and is very easy listening.

Does this signal a return to music for Kimberly Wyatt - can we expect to see any singles from you?

Well, I like to think that I've never been away. After the Pussycat Dolls, I did a duo act called Her Majesty And The Wolves, as well as featuring on Agro Santos' single, Candy, which reached number three in the UK. Her Majesty And The Wolves did many festivals, which was a dream come true for me. I'm really proud of the work I did in that. I was in the studio helping produce and write the songs. I helped to create this amazing album called 111, so music has been quite a continuous thing for me. I then went back to school in New York where I learned to DJ. I just always keep myself immersed. If I feel inspired, then I work on it. If something great comes of it, like this one, then I launch it!

You've recently appeared on *Celebrity Masterchef*. How was that experience?

It was frightening! It's definitely one of the toughest things I've ever done. I was so far out of my comfort zone and shaking like a leaf when I entered the Masterchef kitchen.

Is cooking something you've always enjoyed doing?

I got into cooking about two years ago. I met Max and started thinking and planning to make a life - and now, being a mum, it's something that I've gotten into. Food is the foundation of a family, so *Celebrity Masterchef* is the type of experience that I thought I'd learn a lot from and bring to my household.

Last year you performed a DJ set at Birmingham Pride. Was it your first appearance at a gay pride event?

No, I've done lots of gay pride events around the world, and especially in LA and New York. I'd never done a gay pride event in this country or by myself, so I was quite honoured to be able to share that moment with such a beautiful, celebratory experience. Plus I got to engage with my two loves of DJing and dancing. It was pretty badass!

The gay community are big fans of you, and of course the Pussycat Dolls. Were you surprised at the reaction you got when you did your DJ set?

It was pretty awesome! I was actually a bit overwhelmed at just how into it everybody was. I'll be eternally grateful. I only get to do what I love if people are willing to watch and listen. To think that I was given a stage to shine on - I love it!

Speaking of the gay community, how did you feel when you heard same-sex marriage was made legal in every state in the USA?

I think it's been a genuine evolution. There are a lot of people who have strong feelings on both sides of the argument. People need time to air those frustrations so that choices are made and people have had their say. Saying that, it's such a proud moment, as I feel that marriage is about love. You shouldn't have to say same-sex marriage because then it makes marriage about sex. I think that's where this grey area of frustration is coming from, when people just can't get past the sex part. For me, marriage is a joining of forces - a partnership of love and understanding and commitment and passion. All these beautiful things that make up life.

Finally, what's next for Kimberly Wyatt?

Well, I'm going to be continuing my shenanigans on *Celebrity Masterchef*. I'll continue with my DJing, and there are a lot of TV and music projects in the works. There are some really cool things happening which I can't discuss just yet. But I do have my own fitness programme called *Mum On A Mission*. It's 24 minutes a day, seven days a week, dance-infused circuit training. So anyone who wants to get fit should give it a go! There's a ten-day free trial on my website. www.kimberlywyatt.com



Kimberly on *Celebrity Masterchef*

Kimberly's new single 'Givin' It Up' with DJ Paul Morrell is released on Friday 14 August



Crush with Maureen Chadwick

Whether it's *Bad Girls*, *Footballers' Wives* or episodes of *Coronation Street* and *Waterloo Road*, there's no doubting writer Maureen Chadwick's ability to produce gritty and entertaining storylines. This month sees Maureen's latest theatrical venture make its debut at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre. Featuring music and lyrics by her girlfriend, Kath Gotts, *Crush* is a comic musical set in the early 1960s. Midlands Zone recently met up with Maureen to find out what audiences can expect - oh, and to talk a little bit about *Bad Girls*...

Where did the inspiration for *Crush* come from, Maureen?

Both Kath and I grew up reading schoolgirl stories and absolutely loving them. It seemed a wonderful subject matter for musical comedy and as far as we know it's a genre that hasn't really been mined by musical theatre. We felt we could have fun with the genre, salute it and, at the same time, put a new spin on it. The *Spice Girls* started off this whole girl power thing, which sort of made the feminist message contemporary. That's resonant in the story, but the theme is really about girl friendships and that all for one and one for all sort of spirit.

If there's a contemporary feel, why the decision to set it in 1963 and not the present day?

In an early version, we thought the themes were timeless. We didn't specify a time frame but then it became apparent that we should be selective. We chose 1963 because it represented the cusp of the transition into the 60s. The Swinging 60s hadn't really got going and you've still got a 50s flavour very apparent - but Dame Dorothea Dosserdale School for Girls is right at the forefront of change. The new, hateful headmistress who's recently arrived there is trying to overturn the school's traditional values. She's trying to turn back the tide on the sexual revolution and trying to bring back Victorian values. Dame Dorothea was set up by a campaigning Suffragette back in 1928 who would've seen education as the true gateway to emancipation and would've welcomed girls from all walks of life. In *Crush*, some of the pupils are fee-paying posh girls, one of them's an American, one is from an orphanage and another's the daughter of a fireman and clerk, so it embraces a real social mix.

How much of the musical reflects your own personal experience of schooling?

Both of us went to all-girl schools, so we've both lived in that world. We've certainly tried to channel our inner schoolgirl, as I suppose everyone else will. There's also a stunning boy in *Crush* who appears in various guises and does indeed become the love interest for one of our girls. We're hoping it will entertain a mixed audience of all ages.

How do you set about creating the characters, and do you have a favourite?

The way we work is very collaboratively. It always has to start with a story because all musicals, however marvelous the music is, need a story to hold everything together and motor things along. We chose characters to definitely represent the different types of girls and we got a great contrast between our deputy head and the horrible headmistress Miss Bleacher. The headmistress is quite fierce and reactionary and dear Miss Austin, who was herself a pupil at the school, is the keeper of the flame.

In your TV creations - *Bad Girls*, *Footballers' Wives* and *Waterloo Road* - there's always an element of shock and often controversy. Will these be evident in *Crush* too, or will it be pretty mild?

The tone of it is obviously very different because it's musical comedy, so there's an overall light entertainment spin to it. Nevertheless it touches on many similar issues. There are always going to be some people who're going to be shocked about some things that the rest of us take for granted. I would say it's only now that you can have a musical comedy which does indeed celebrate two girls falling in love. It's a sign of the times that we can have such subject

matter in family entertainment.

And do you have a character that you empathise with?

When you write the story you have to empathise with all of them. When Kath was writing the music for one of Jim Fenners' songs in *Bad Girls*, she had to get inside the head of a sexual predator, which is not a nice place to be. When writing this we had to get inside the head of Miss Bleacher. You have to think, if I were her, what would I be saying and feeling? You have to identify with every point of view, but overall we know who we want to win. That's the excitement of doing it, really. We like all the characters but for different reasons.

Does it all come good in the end?

Overall yes, but there are some twists and turns which may not be entirely predictable.

Did you know you wanted to become a professional writer even when you were at school?

Jointly loved art and English. I left school and studied art and subsequently philosophy. My original intention was to become a painter, but then I started taking writing more seriously and just switched over. I had an office job at the time where I was left alone for most of the day, so I thought, well, I can't paint here but I could certainly start writing some plays and that's how I got into writing. I got an agent and got my first TV commission, which was to write on Angels. Tony Howard, who created *EastEnders*, also created *Angels*, which was all about nurses. I then got my commission to write for *Coronation Street*. I'd never watched it before. I didn't even know who Jack Duckworth was, so I had to catch up really fast. In all, I think I wrote around forty-five

episodes, including the one when Hayley declared herself to be a transsexual! It was also when Deirdre Barlow was in prison, so it was great fun.

The disciplines required for writing for TV and stage are very different. Which do you prefer?

I thoroughly enjoyed writing for TV but I don't think it's quite the same as it was when we were doing all our shows with Shed production company. I rather doubt that *Bad Girls* would be commissioned as readily now as it was then. We were very fortunate at the time that ITV had a fairly hands-off approach to let you run with things. They also gave you quite a sizeable series to start off with. We had ten episodes for our first series of *Bad Girls*. That gave us enough time to really garner an audience because it was the first prime-time TV drama series to have a central lesbian love story.

Where did your research take you when you were writing *Bad Girls*?

We went into several prisons. I had myself locked into a cell at one point so that I could feel the true claustrophobia of it all. It was all entirely research-based. Obviously in TV drama more things happen at once, but unlike documentaries you can actually show stuff that a documentary camera could never access, so it really was fantastic to be able to open the doors to that closed world. Prior to that, people just didn't really know much

about women's prisons. They thought women prisoners were either mad, bad or fat. We wanted to try and help people feel that it could be you, your mum, your sister or your daughter.

In complete contrast, you wrote *Footballers' Wives*.

Yes, and I hate football. I'd never been to a football match before, but *Footballers' Wives* was as much about football as *Dallas* was about oil. We proposed it to ITV and they commissioned us to write a series. Ann McManus and I were the lead writers and creators on all the *Shed* stuff, so we just threw ourselves into it. Our intention was for it to be a social satire. We saw it as a wonderful opportunity to look into that world of the young, newly rich, over rich, and all the mistakes you can make when you're in that situation.

Is it true you got a roasting from some people about the show?

We've always had a roasting. Yes, we were termed 'trash TV'. We were the proud bearers of that title. Basically a lot of male critics hated us. They didn't think we understood the joke, which is just to give you a flavour of the level of patronising comments that came our way. But the public has always got the shows and we've won lots of awards for all of them. To begin with it was a bit of an uphill struggle but unlike *Bad Girls*, I think *Footballers' Wives* appealed to the ABCs, so it was possibly more

of a middle-class pastime.

You've ticked the boxes for TV and stage. Would you ever consider turning your hand to a novel?

I've written a film script, which I completed a few months ago, so that's me dipping my toe into another medium.

Do you and Kath always work together?

I write my plays on my own but we work together on musicals. Kath and I know how to work together efficiently. Kath gives me lines of dialogue and I give her lines of lyrics. Most of them get refused but we do find it very easy to cook things up together and chew over ideas.

So far your work has taken you to schools, prisons, on to the football pitch and into nightclubs. Is there a particular environment that you'd like to explore in the future?

Sometimes you just don't know about the milieu until you've found the story or the character. We've got a few things cooking but I wouldn't want to give away anything more than that.

Crush shows at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, from Friday 4 to Saturday 19 September

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(WATERLOO ROAD, FOOTBALLERS' WIVES)

KATH GOTT
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ANNA LINSTRUM
(THE SOUND OF MUSIC, A CHRISTMAS CAROL)

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LIGHTING DESIGNER: JOHANNA TOWN

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LGBT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A DIFFERENT KIND OF CLOSET



With domestic violence occurring in one in every four same-sex relationships, a new advocacy and support service for LGBT people has been set up in Birmingham. The service is a pilot project operated by Birmingham LGBT and funded by Birmingham's Community Safety Partnership. Here, Midlands Zone talks to Birmingham LGBT's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Anna Robottom about domestic violence in LGBT relationships and what can be done to help.

In a nutshell, what is domestic violence?

Domestic violence hugely involves power and control over a partner, an ex-partner or a family member. The stereotype is that it happens within a heterosexual relationship with the violence being perpetrated by the man towards his female partner. And while that scenario still accounts for the majority of cases, domestic violence nonetheless happens within the LGBT community as well, to around one in four people. Domestic violence isn't just physical abuse. It can also be emotional abuse, controlling behaviour, financial abuse and sexual abuse.

What are some of the consequences of being in a relationship where you might experience domestic violence?

Very often people can find themselves feeling isolated, not knowing who to turn to. Therefore they have to cope with it by themselves. There can also be health implications if physical abuse is happening. Even without that, the impact on both mental and emotional health can be huge.

What do yourself and Birmingham LGBT do to help LGBT people who are in these situations?

We have a service to support anyone in Birmingham or the surrounding areas who're aged 16-plus, identify themselves as LGBT and think they're experiencing abuse from a partner, former partner or a family member. The key focus of the support is helping victims identify what their safety options are. A big part of it

is just to talk about experiences and explore what's been happening. A lot of people experiencing domestic abuse are involved with agencies such as the police or others within the legal system, so if someone is going through the court system due to being in a domestic abuse case, Birmingham LGBT is there to support them. We can attend court with people, ensure safety measures have been set up and advocate on people's behalf in terms of talking to agencies such as the police, housing and children's services.

Is the service you provide used by a great number of people?

Certainly there's room for more people to access immediate support from us. If there are people out there who're concerned that they're facing abuse and need help straightaway, please do get in touch with the service. This is the first time there's been an LGBT-specific domestic violence service in the Midlands so it's really important to spread the word and get as many people as possible talking about it.

Do you find it personally a challenging role?

It's a role that certainly does have its challenges, but it's not the role itself that's challenging. It's a role that really cares about, and I do it because I think it's an area that needs changing. Nobody should have to experience domestic violence, and it's my job to try and make their situation safer and more manageable. That's why the service is there - so that people don't have to deal with these challenges alone.

If someone thinks they might be in a violent relationship, what is the first step they should take?

If anyone thinks they're at risk of harm, they should contact the police, as they're the ones who can respond in an emergency situation. If people are either unable to do that or they're looking to discuss their situation, they're very welcome to contact Birmingham LGBT and talk things through. If people feel comfortable to do so, they can contact via phone and then arrange an appointment. There's no pressure for them to continue using the service if they feel like it's not for them. If they think there are things that they can get from the service and they would like support with their relationship or situation, then we're there for them. If someone feels like they can't access the service themselves, they can have another professional contact us on their behalf. Just calling the centre in a general capacity, just to get a feel of what it's like, is okay as well.

I guess that a lot of people that are in abusive relationships are scared to speak out, with people finding out and the repercussions of that. If they are unable to speak out but would like to get out, what would you say to those people?

Firstly, the person needs to feel comfortable and ready to ask for help. We're not here to put any pressure on anyone to leave. We're here to help them make their own decision and show them how to do safely whatever it is they decide to do. If people are worried about accessing the service and doing that safely, this is something

we can discuss over the phone first of all. If people are just looking for some telephone support for a while, that's also fine.

What is next for Birmingham LGBT in terms of your support?

We're aiming to continue the work we're doing and to continue to grow the service. We're five months into the service and, although it's early days, we can see there's a demand. We want as many people as possible to get support on whatever level works for them.

At the moment we're a year-long pilot project but we're hoping that will continue. The key part of the work is to find out what the need is and to show that there are people out there who're really benefiting from this service.

Do you find domestic abuse more prevalent in a particular group, such as same-sex female relationships or same-sex male relationships?

In terms of our service, it's still quite early days in that respect. National studies have shown there are quite similar levels within these two groups. At the moment I'm supporting more men, but I think that will even out with time. But again, if a woman wants a specialist service around domestic violence and LGBT domestic violence, if someone wants that specific support, then it's okay to come to us.

For more information or to talk to someone about domestic violence, call 0121 643 0821

14 PAGE GUIDE TO LGBT EVENTS

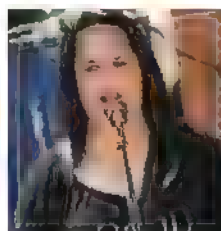
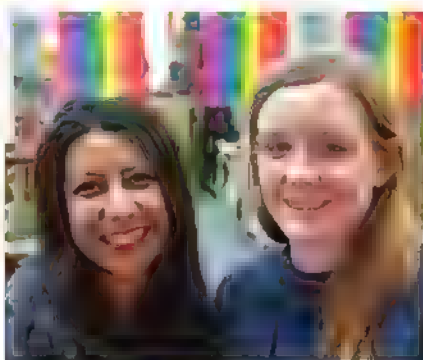
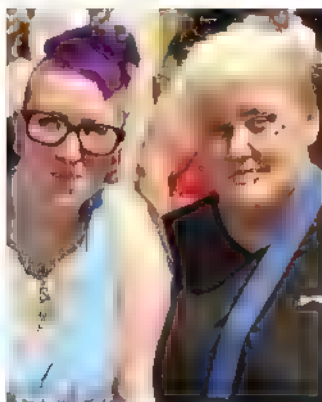
14 PAGE GUIDE TO LGBT EVENTS



Over 6,000 turn out for first ever **Coventry Pride** festival

The city of Coventry was treated to its first ever Pride festival at the end of June - and the event was hailed a huge success.

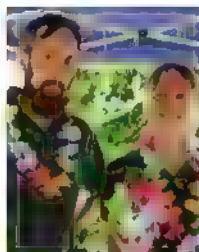
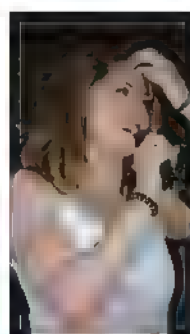
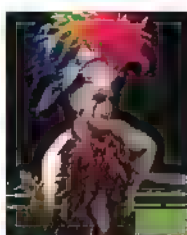
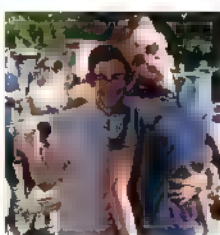
Organisers of the festival, which took place at the city's Fargo Village, say that over 6,000 people visited the event across its two days. Next year's bash is already in the planning stage



Warwickshire Pride: Busiest and best yet, say organisers

Warwickshire Pride has firmly cemented its place on the Midlands' ever-growing LGBT events calendar.

In a post on Facebook, organisers of the event hailed the 2015 incarnation 'the busiest and best one yet'. Festival-goers were treated to an afternoon of music and community events - not to mention a chance to bask in the glorious summer sunshine. The event raised over £7,000 for charity and the LGBT community 'so a big well done to all who attended!'



Pictures by Bradley Burdett and Chris Brookes for Gay Pride Pics

The summer sun shines on popular lesbian festival **L Fest**

Last month saw Uttoxeter Racecourse in Staffordshire transformed into a haven for the UK's lesbian community, thanks to the return of annual music & arts festival **L Fest**.

With bigger and better stages than ever before, this year's get-together was hailed a huge success by the festival's organiser, Cindy Edwards. The event boasted headline acts Lucy Spraggan and Stooche as well as many more artists, authors, film screenings and, of course, a great party atmosphere!

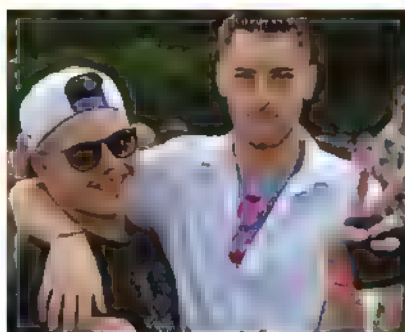
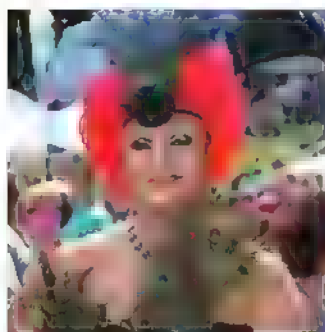
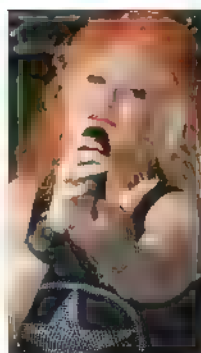
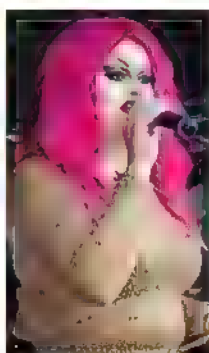


Pictures by Laura Byrne

Thousands turn out for annual **Stoke-on-Trent Pride** festival

Over 3,500 people descended on Hanley's Northwood Park for the annual Stoke-on-Trent Pride festival last month - almost double the number in 2014!

We're assuming the increased attendance was something to do with the headline act on the main stage - the hot bodied Jake Quickenden of X Factor and I'm A Celebrity fame! The sun shone, people laughed and festival-goers partied throughout the day!



Pictures by Fox & Squirrel



Sausage rolls and sarnies for **Shrewsbury Pink Picnic**

Saturday 8 August

The Quarry,
Shrewsbury

www.lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

Shrewsbury's annual Pink Picnic returns to the Shropshire market town early this month. Taking place alongside the River Severn in the stunning surroundings of The Quarry Shrewsbury's largest public park the event offers members of the town's LGBT community the chance to enjoy a relaxing afternoon (hopefully in the sun.)
LGBTs and their friends are encouraged to pop along with a blanket, food and drinks for a great day of socialising



LGBT families come together at Staffordshire's **Family Pride**

**Friday 7 -
Monday 10 August**

Barnswood Scout
Camp, Nr. Leek

www.familyprideuk.co.uk

Returning for 2015 is the increasingly popular Family Pride festival in Staffordshire.

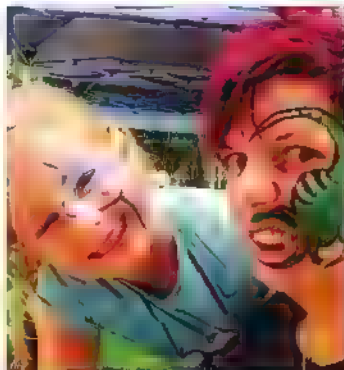
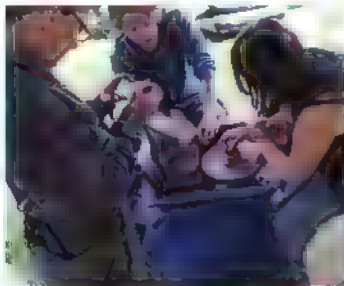
Spread across three days and three nights, it features plenty to see and do for family members of all ages.

Fun for the kids is provided by an adventure play ground, inflatable slides, balloon modelling, face painting, magic acts and games galore!

There's entertainment for the adults too, with music throughout.

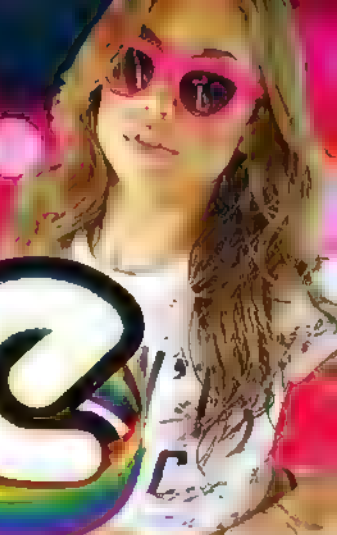
So if you're stuck for ideas about what to do in the school holidays take a trip to Gay Family Pride and make some new friends!

Weekend tickets cost £60 for adults and just £20 for the kids. They're available at www.familyprideuk.co.uk



Walsall

Pride



SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 2015

11am August Bank Holiday - Gallery Square, Walsall

Main Stage - Cabaret Marquee

Dance Arena

Market Stalls - Fair Rides



Sasha Simone



Smashby



To get the latest information visit

www.walsallpride.org

ASDA



Walsall Council



THE RED LION



The Lion Bar & Club



WALSALL WHARF



Walsall Pride: LGBT community gets set to party

Saturday 29 August

**Gallery Square,
Walsall**

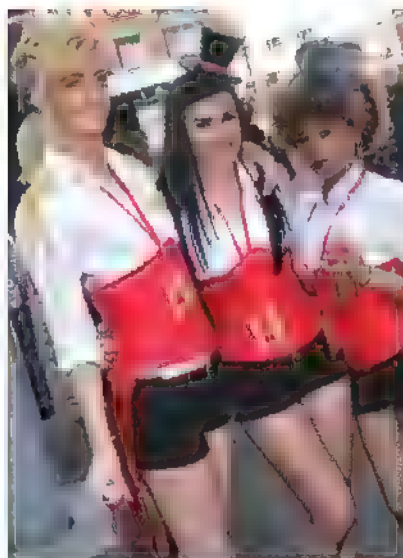
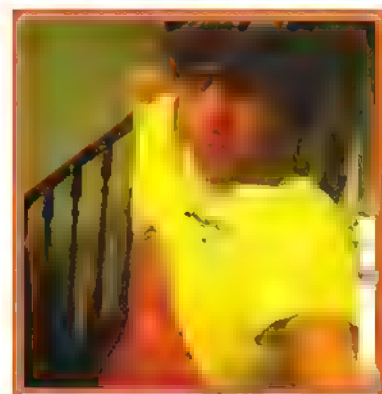
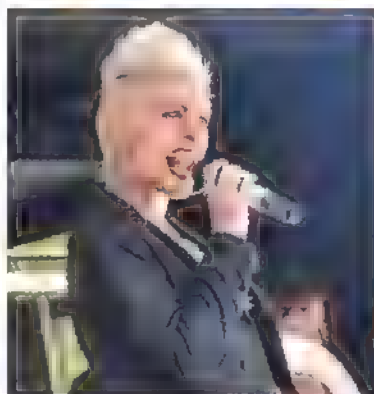
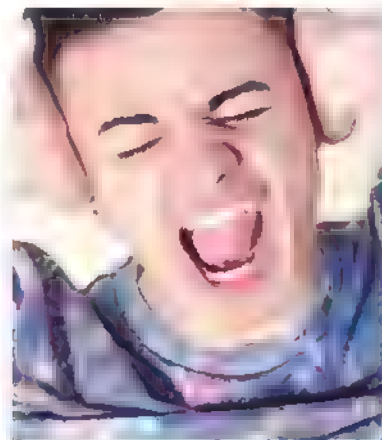
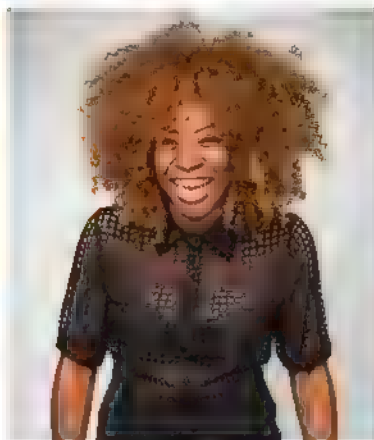
www.walsallpride.org

Taking its place for a fourth year on the Midlands LGBT events calendar, Walsall Pride is set to be both bigger and better in 2015, boasting a main stage, a dance arena and a cabaret marquee.

The main event, featuring the main stage, once again takes place in Gallery Square, right in the heart of Walsall. Acts confirmed to appear include The Voice star Sasha Simone and new kid on the block Smashby. There's also a string of tribute acts taking part, plus a debut performance for up-and-coming singing star Chad Charles.

The cabaret marquee, meanwhile, is being hosted by the nearby Red Lion bar and features some of the region's favourite drag artists and dance acts. Fans of dance music should head to The Lion Bar & Club, where big-name acts Kelly Wilde and Eva Iglesias will both be strutting their stuff. There's also a Jess Glynne tribute act to enjoy and the disc-spinning talents of numerous DJs throughout the night.

Walsall Pride is free to attend but donations are welcome. The main event takes place in Gallery Square, Walsall, on Saturday 29 August. For more information, visit www.walsallpride.org





Pride weekender

PRIDE SATURDAY
29TH AUG

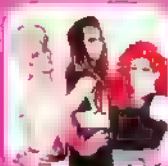
BIG PA'S



Eva Iglesias
Britain's Got Talent
2014



Kelly Wilde
80's Legend
"Gloria"



The Vixons
Trio Drag Idol
Runners up 2015



Laquisha Jonz
Hilarious
Comedy Drag



Jess Glynne Tribute
The Ultimate
"Sing-a-long" Artist

DJ'S

Martin Green • Shaun Clifford
Vikki Scott • Wayne H

PRIDE SUNDAY

30TH AUG

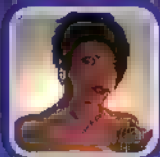
ALL DAY CABARET



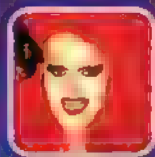
Pam Katz



Mitzy Mansell



Champagne Shirley



Charlotte The Harlotte



Tanya Hyde



Ms Mo Bility



Miss Lips

DJ'S

Zac Humpage
Martin Green
Vikki Scott

OPENING HOURS

Saturday 29th Aug - 12 Midday - 6am * • Sunday 30th Aug - 12 Midday - 6am *

*Subject to licensing

The Lion Bar & Club, Birchills Street, Walsall, WS2 8NG • Tel: 01922 610 977

Facebook - lionbarandclub

THE RED LION

Cabaret Stage

Thunder Pussy
Mrs Mills
Miss Penny
Pam Catz
Ebonay Kruger
Twiggy
Mitzy Munroe
Divine Miss M
Outrageous Mitzy
Mary Mac
Sandra
Trisha
Glamourettes

Saturday 29th August
2pm - 3am

Outside Bar / Marquee / Drink Deals All Day



Dates for your diary: **LGBT events** across the country

August

Liverpool Pride

Sat 1 August
Liverpool Pier Head
liverpoolpride.co.uk

Brighton Pride

Sat 1 August
Madeira Drive/Preston Park
brighton-pride.org

Leeds Pride

Sun 2 August
Lower Briggale
leedspride.com

Family Pride

Fri 7 August
Barnswood Scout Camp
Leek, Staffordshire
familyprideuk.co.uk

Swindon &

Wiltshire Pride

Sat 8 August
Town Gardens, Quarry Rd
swindonwiltshirepride.co.uk

Wakefield Pride

Sun 9 August
Warren Gate
wakefieldpride.org

Bicon Convention

Thurs 13 - Sun 16 August
Nottingham University
Park Campus
2015.bicon.org.uk

Cymru Ffwd

Sat 15 August
Coopers Fields
pridecymru.co.uk

Manchester Pride

Sat 29 August
Manchester
manchesterpride.com

Cornwall Pride

Sat 29 August
Truro Lemon Quay
cornwallpride.com

Kent Pride

Sat 29 August
Margate Main Sands
facebook.com/kentpride2015

Walsall Pride

Sat 29 August
Gallery Square
walsallpride.org

September

Leicester Pride

Sat 5 September
Victoria Park
leicesterpride.com

Reading Pride

Sat 5 September

King's Meadow Park
readingpride.co.uk

Sunderland Pride

Sat 26 September
Civic Centre, Sunderland
sunderlandpride.com

Lincoln Pride

Sun 27 September
City Square
lincolnpide.co.uk

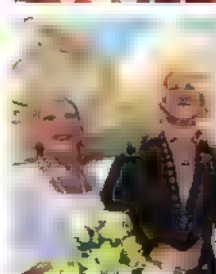
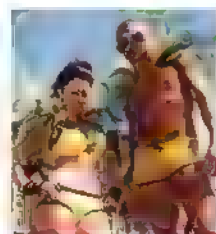
October

Chester Pride

Sat 3 October
Castle Square
chesterpride.co.uk

Rainbow Film Festival

Fri 16 - Sun 18 October
Old Music Hall & The Hive
Shrewsbury
rainbowfestival.org.uk



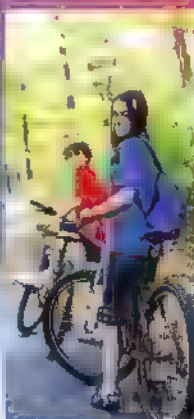
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We're recruiting
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Come and meet us at
Family Pride,
Staffordshire on
Saturday 8th August for
a chat - or call

FREEPHONE 0800 085 6531
www.fostercarecooperative.co.uk
duty@fostercarecooperative.co.uk



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LEICESTER

PRIDE

2015

MAIN STAGE

SAM BAILEY

DIVA FEVER

STEPHEN BAILEY

LEE BENNETT

ROBBIE LEWIS

CHRIS HAUL

DANCE STAGE

BIMBO JONES

ANDY SMITH

ROB LAMBETH

GARETH HAZARD

ALEX DEWINTER

SPARKI TROWELL

+ MORE ACTS TBA

facebook.com/leicesterpride

[@leicesterpride](https://twitter.com/leicesterpride)

leicesterpride.com

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2015. VICTORIA PARK



X Factor winner Sam Bailey to headline **Leicester Pride**

Saturday 5 September

**Victoria Park,
Leicester**

www.leicesterpride.com

Next month's one-day Leicester Pride festival is kickstarted by a colourful parade through the city's streets. Leaving from the Curve Theatre at 12 noon, the procession will wind its way through the centre of Leicester en route to Victoria Park, where the main event takes place.

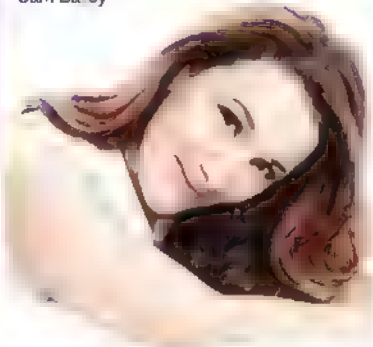
Leicester Pride has certainly pulled out all the stops this year with local lass and X Factor winner Sam Bailey headlining the event's main stage. Other performers appearing at the festival include camp X Factor finalists Diva Fever and former world number one female DJ, Lisa Lashes.

The DJ Tent is great for fans of dance music and is this year headlined by Leicester favourites Bimbo Jones.

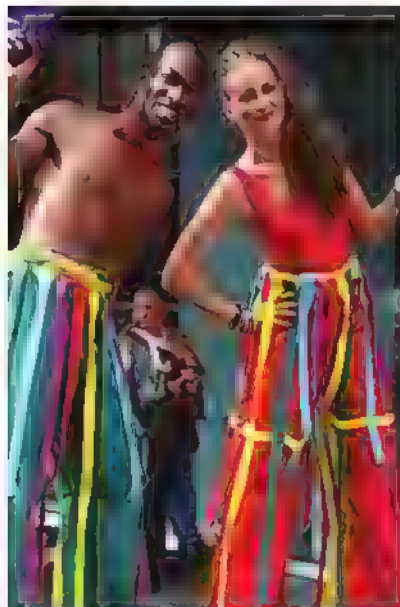
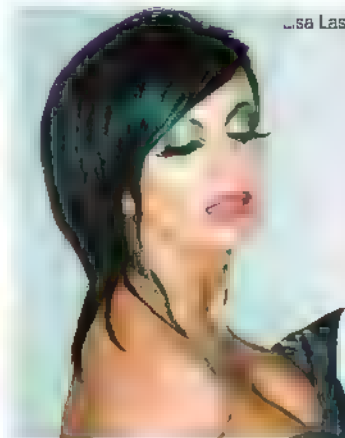
Leicester Pride takes place on Saturday 5 September at Victoria Park in Leicester. For more information, visit www.leicesterpride.com

This year's Leicester Pride Ball, meanwhile, is being held the weekend before the Pride event itself, on Sunday 28 August. Comprising a three-course meal, entertainment from Charlie Hides and a raffle, it's going to be a great night.

Sam Bailey



Lisa Lashes



sloanes

NEW WALK, LEICESTER

LEICESTER
PRIDE
2008

PLUS
ROBBIE LEWIS

PLUS
RICHARD MOON

**DANCE
WITH
ME.**

Lisa Lashes

OFFICIAL LEICESTER PRIDE AFTER PARTY

JOIN US STRAIGHT FROM THE PARK AT 8PM. OPEN UNTIL 6AM

CURVE

THE AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL

hairspray



What's On Stage

STARRING

DAVID LEE

AS EDNA TURNBOLD

CLAIR COOPER

AS VELMA MONROE

PETER DINKIN

CHRISTOPHER MCKAY

AS MOTORMOUTH KATHY BEEBE

BOOK BY

MARK O'DONNELL THOMAS NEEHAN

MUSIC BY

MARC SHAIMAN

LYRICS BY

SCOTT WITTMAN MARC SHAIMAN

DIRECTOR PAUL KERRYSON

CHOREOGRAPHER DREW MCNIE

MUSICAL DIRECTOR BEN ATKINSON

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TICKETS 0116 242 3595 WWW.CURVEONLINE.CO.UK

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the CENTRE
LESBIAN GAY BI & TRANS

Leicester LGBT Centre
15 Wellington Street, Leicester LE1 6HH
0116 254 16 2
www.leicestergbtcentre.org info@leicestergbtcentre.org



Sexual Health Screening at Leicester Pride 2015

FREE and confidential service

No appointment needed

12 - 4.30pm

Trade Health and Wellbeing Marquee



01



02



03

BACK TO BLACK



04



05



06

01 Black Floral Print T-shirt

Bring a bit of pattern into your wardrobe with this floral print t-shirt. Paired with a pair of grey denim shorts, you'll look great this summer!

£9.99
www.newlook.co.uk

02 Weekend Bag

Weekend bag in imitation leather with two handles and a zip at the top, a detachable adjustable shoulder strap adjustable buckles at the sides which can make the bag more spacious and one zipped inner pocket.

£39.99
www.hm.com

03 Long Cotton Shirt

Extra-long checked shirt in soft cotton with long sleeves a button-down collar with concealed buttons and a rounded hem with splits in the sides that is slightly longer at the back.

£19.99
www.hm.com

04 Black Dripping Print

Refresh your shirts collection with this monochrome version. Its white dripping-style print makes it an abstract option for the weekends.

£26.00
www.riverisland.com

05 Black Cap

No, not the black cap in Camden, but a black cap for your head. Rub bish joke sorry. But grab this imitation leather black cap to keep the sun from your eyes this summer!

£7.99
www.hm.com

06 Black Only & Sons Stripes T-shirt

We love this design with an asymmetrical stripe design, this black and white t-shirt is guaranteed to update your casual collection. Complete with short sleeves and a crew neck.

£12.99
www.hm.com



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01



02



03



04



05



06



01 Panasonic RP-BTD10-K Wireless On-Ear Headphones

Listen wirelessly via Bluetooth and enjoy premium sound. Connect to your device quickly via NFC by simply touching the headphones to an NFC-enabled smartphone.

£59.99
www.panasonic.co.uk

02 Samsung Smart Ultra HD 4K 40" Curved LED TV

With a fantastic picture quality with a curved screen that draws you into the action, this curved Ultra HD 4K TV is designed to give you an immersive experience.

£824.00
www.currys.co.uk

03 Sony Wireless Megasound Hi-Fi System

You'll shake the room with an incredible 500W of high-calibre sound from a compact Hi-Fi system that can handle any party situation.

www.pcworld.co.uk

04 Fujifilm X-T10

Small, simple to use and offering exceptional image quality, the Fujifilm X-T10 turns any trip, whether in everyday life or to the other side of the world, into the ultimate photo opportunity.

£599.95
www.johnlewis.co.uk

05 GoPro Hero4 Session

Hero4 Session packs the power of GoPro into the smallest, lightest, most convenient camera yet, featuring a rugged and waterproof design, 1080p video and BMP photos.

£329.99
www.gopro.com

06 Airwheel X8

A compact and personal transportation device that will change the way you go about your day. This unique personal transportation wheel is self-balancing so it's easy for anyone to use.

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TOP TECH

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

SCENE

AUGUST 2015

GAY CLUBBING IN THE MIDLANDS

YOUR GUIDE TO
WHAT'S ON
ACROSS THE
MIDLANDS
GAY SCENE

DANNY BEARD

The 2015 Drag Idol winner performs at venues across Birmingham's gay scene

DANCE ARENA

The hugely popular Dance Arena returns this August Bank Holiday Weekend

DRAG NIGHT FUN IN BRUM

Missing Bar hosts 6th annual Drag Night featuring top drag acts and their own Drag Race

A SUMMER OF FUN AT
THE BIGGEST GAY
MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

MISS
MARTY

FREE
ENTRY
BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!
10PM-3AM

Jakulans

Join Birmingham's award-winning
Marty 'the girl that likes to party'
Every monday from 10pm

PLUS
HAPPY HOUR FROM 10PM
DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT

C:21

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DRAG
WITH NO
NAME

18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE.
TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

VICKY JACKSON

Monday nights at C 21 in Shrewsbury is one of the biggest gay nights in the West Midlands. The first Monday of every month sees the popular venue hosting live cabaret, with August's spot being filled by top tribute artist Vicky Jackson as Lady Gaga! Get your disco stick ready - it's gonna be an amazing night! Not only that, every Monday night throughout the month sees Marty, the girl who likes to party, take to the stage for fun and games!



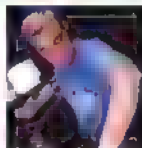
BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS AT BRUM BAR

When you've finished work for the day, instead of heading straight home, why not pop into The Loft Lounge in Birmingham for a cheeky cocktail or two? Selected cocktails are two-for-one all day and night between Sunday and Friday! Booom! THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two THE LOFT LOUNGE

MINISTRY OF POUND with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm Selected drinks £1 Open until 2am MISSING BAR



PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano

IT'S THE MINISTRY OF POUND AT MISSING!

Birmingham's popular Missing Bar on Hurst Street brings you Pounded each and every Monday. From 8pm onwards, you can get your hands on selected drinks from £1. Spirits, beer, bottles - you name it, it's on offer!

Cash prizes and free drinks Happy Hour 12noon-10pm THE VILLAGE INN

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry NIGHTINGALE CLUB

MONDAY MADNESS Weekly d

BAR JESTER

OUTSKIRTS 1st & 3rd Monday

POUNDED Come and de

WEST MIDLANDS

FABULOUS Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The girl who likes to party) **Mon 6 July** - Live cabaret with Sandra. Free admission before midnight and just £3 after Great drinks offers all night long with drinks starting at just £1 **C:21, SHREWSBURY**

THE MONDAY CLUB 9pm-5am Student night. Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward **GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON**

CHILL NIGHT with Kara **THREE FURNACES, TELFORD**

OPEN 5pm-4am **GOSSIP, STOKE ON TRENT**

STUDENT NIGHT Free admission! 11 drinks £1.50 before midn. **PINK, STOKE ON TRENT**

EAST MIDLANDS

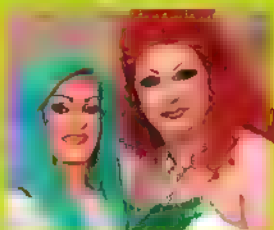
2 TILL 2

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

DISCO 7pm-mid **NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM**

TACKY TUESDAYS

Birmingham gay scene favourites Miss Penny and Charlotte the Harlotte offer a night of fun and games every Tuesday at The Village Inn. Boasting laughs and prizes galore, it's a perfect way to get rid of any start-of-the-week blues you may be suffering! Go on, pop in and say hello!



2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two THE LOFT LOUNGE

KARAOKE TIME AT MISSING BAR

Everyone loves a bit of karaoke in their lives - so head to Missing Bar in Birmingham and join Gavina from 9pm till late. Whether you're good or bad at singing, it's great fun - so go on, grab the mic!

SCREAM STAR SUPERSTAR With your host karaoke temptress

Gavina. Party starts at 9pm till late **MISSING BAR**



2 MEALS FOR £10

If you're peckish, head down to Sidewalk in Birmingham. They have a cracking 'two meals for a tenner' menu - great for you and a mate to enjoy, setting you up for a top night on the town. We've tried it and it's a fab!

TACKY TUESDAYS with Charlotte and Miss Penny. Songs Games & Prizes Happy Hour 12noon-10pm **THE VILLAGE INN**

TUNE UP TUESDAY 8pm-11pm **BAR JESTER**

BAR JESTER

BIG TUESDAY NIGHT PARTY Quids in Drinks from £1 2 rooms of

music

THE LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

CAMP QUIZ With free buffet! 9-11pm **THREE FURNACES, TELFORD**

DIVERSITY Weekly gay-fri

VELVET, WORCESTER

FLAUNT A twist of awesome fun

BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

SKYE'S PARTY NIGHT D. and 11pm

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

2 TILL 2 Open 11pm-4am

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CHILL OUT NIGHT 11pm-1am **NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM**

GAMES NIGHT Free Pool and Nintendo Wii from 8pm **DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER**

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am **NIGHTINGALE CLUB**

TAKE A TRIP BACK IN TIME WITH '90s NIGHT

The 1990s - the decade when we were introduced to the Spice Girls and many more fantastic pop groups. Re-live it by heading to The Nightingale's '90s night. You'll love it for sure!

THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

Wednesdays are 2 GOOD 2 MISS at Missing Bar in Brum

Missing Bar in Birmingham certainly knows how to throw an awesome party, regardless of which day of the week it is! Pop in for a night of midweek fun, great tunes and cheap drinks in the company of DJ Mike Emery and the rest of the venue's team. It may be a school night, but a cheeky drink or two won't hurt, will it? We'll be seeing you on the dancefloor!

MISSING - BIRMINGHAM



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Shake your tail feathers at Sidewalks new 2 for 1 cocktail menu.

THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two.

THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery.

MISSING BAR

IT'S COCKTAIL TIME AT THE LOFT LOUNGE!

Rather than heading out for a pint or a double vodka and coke, why not opt for a cocktail? Or better still, how about two? The Loft Lounge in Birmingham is offering two gorgeous cocktails for the price of one! If you're hungry, why not grab a bite to eat as well?

THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

WITH CHARLOTTE!

Pop along to Birmingham's Village Inn and show off your karaoke skills to Charlotte the Harlot and DJ Deano. You may not walk away with a million pound recording contract but you can walk away with a sense of pride!

THE VILLAGE INN

C FACTOR - with Charlotte the Harlot

THE VILLAGE INN

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL

THE FOX

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

2am Open 10pm-12am

BAR JESTER

WEDNESDAY LINE Line Dance

THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

DISCO & DJ with Glamour 5pm

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Live DJs, drinks, prizes

THREE FURNACES, Telford

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Karaoke

Games, Open 9pm-midnight

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

EAST MIDLANDS

GAMES NIGHT Free Pool

Karaoke & Disco 7pm-2am

NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

KARAOKE 9pm-12am £2 drink

9pm-11pm Free entry

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

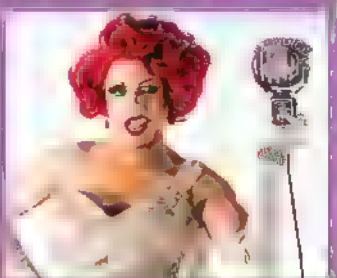
GAMES NIGHT AT THE NEW FORESTERS

If you're looking for something to do in Nottingham on a Wednesday night, then head down to The New Foresters for free pool and cheap drink!

THE NEW FORESTERS - NOTTS

LA VOIX

Fans of popular drag artist La Voix are in for a treat this month, as she appears at award-winning Birmingham gay bar Eden not once but twice! The Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist will be live on stage in the Eden Marquee on Thursday 6 and 27 August. Make sure you catch both shows!



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two.

THE LOFT LOUNGE

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ DEANO On the decks. Happy Hour 12noon-2am

THE VILLAGE INN

DROP THE BOMB start of your weekend. £1.50 on all bombs

(excluding the Gutterbomb) with our resident DJ Rowan.

SIDEWALK

I < 3 THE 90S with DJ Dan. Open from 6pm.

EDEN INN

LA VOIX Thurs 6 & 27 August

Live cabaret from 10pm with Britain's Got Talent star La Voix!

EDEN

MISS MARTY'S MADHOUSE

Songs, Games and Happy Hour until 2am. With Miss Marty and DJ Deano

THE VILLAGE INN

GET POUNDED

Every Thursday at The Nightingale sees the students of Birmingham's gay scene head down for the biggest party in the city. Cheap drinks and £5 entry is a great start to this incredible night out!

MYRA DUBOIS Thurs 20 August
Live comedy with comedy artist Myra Dubois

EDEN

POUNDED £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart, dance and urban on Ground Floor. Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SHOT EXCHANGE Keep your

THE CORE

THROWBACK THURSDAY £1.20

drinks and great music. Missing

BAR JESTER'S DOLLAR KARAOKE

Drinks from £1

THE FOX

PARTY POP Pop music tunes

DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 10pm

Open 9pm until very late

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

12.01 with DJ James Levett

Open from Midnight until 5am with

drinks from £1

GORGEOUS, WOLVES

THE KARAOKE LOUNGE - Free entry

Big value drinks. With DJ Zac

THE LION, WALSALL

CAMP KARAOKE and cabaret

THREE FURNACES, Telford

GET OUT with DJ

THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

DISCO & DJ A night of fun with

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Club

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON



**YOUR BRAND NEW GORGEOUS
COMING SOON!**

700 CAPACITY | 2 BARS | EXECUTIVE LOUNGE | VIP BOOTHS
STUNNING SOUND & LIGHTING

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GORGEOUS CLUB | SCHOOL STREET | WOLVERHAMPTON | WV1 4LF | 01902 427247

XXL brings all late bears to the Village in Birmingham

Every third Friday of the month sees the Midlands biggest men-only night take place at The Core in Birmingham. Join DJ Christian M for a great night out with the men of the Midlands on Friday the 21st.



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES - Du Parré takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too. **SIDEWALK**

DJ JAMES HOSTS A NIGHT OF PARTY TUNES

Every Friday sees Birmingham's Missing Bar hosting a night of party anthems. Join DJ James from 9pm till late and blast out some of your favourite songs over the speakers! Don't forget - there are great drinks offers too!

MISSING BAR - BIRMINGHAM

BIG GAY FRIDAY - Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours. **MISSING BAR**

KARAOKE TIME AT EDEN WITH DJ NIKKI

If you fancy a sing-song whilst you're out for the night, then head to Eden Bar in Birmingham's Gay Village every Friday night. DJ Nikki is on hand with a big book of songs, a microphone and an audience! Go on, you know you want to! **EDEN - BIRMINGHAM**

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki. **EDEN BAR**

FREAKY FRIDAY - Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. **Fri 7 Aug** - Kelly Wilde. **Fri 14 Aug** - Glitter Lips. **Fri 21 Aug** - Miss Penny. **Fri 28 Aug** - Sandra. **THE VILLAGE INN**

INFUSION - Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2. **NIGHTINGALE CLUB**

KICK START - Kick start the weekend from 9pm till the early hours.

Hosted by James. **MISSING BAR**



INFUSION

Join DJ Corey every Friday night for Infusion. Corey will be playing the best anthems and floorfillers on the scene. Drinks are from £2 all night long - and it's £2 entry all night long too!

L8R - With Charlotte the Harlot. Open until 6am every Friday. **THE VILLAGE INN**



LIP GLOSS

The first Friday of every month (Fri 7 Aug) sees Birmingham's trans* community, their friends and admirers come together for a night of fun at the city's popular Eden Bar. So grab a friend and pop along for a fun night!

LIP GLOSS - Fri 7 August - With host Miss Penny. Live entertainment from Kara van Park and stripper Rumble. **EDEN BAR**

MIDSBears - Fri 21 August - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers with special guest Paul Middleton. **EDEN BAR**

OLD SKOOL GARAGE - The first

Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time, playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed.

MIDSBears MEETUP AT EDEN BAR

Friday 21 August sees the monthly MidsBears meet-up take place at Birmingham's Eden Bar. If you've not been before, it's a monthly social group for Bears and their admirers. This month sees special guest Paul Middleton too!

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SAATHI - Fri 28 August - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra. **NIGHTINGALE CLUB**

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with DJ Nikk every Friday - your chance to

VINTAGE FRIDAYS AT THE LOFT LOUNGE

If you're into a bit of old school music, head down to The Loft Lounge in Birmingham every Friday night for a hot helping of Motown, Northern Soul, funk, rock and all of your classic favourites.

THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

win cash! **EDEN BAR**

VINTAGE FRIDAYS - a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites. **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

XXL - Fri 21 July - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month. **THE CORE CLUB**

FUNK'D UP - a female Sat

CLUB CHIC

KARAOKE - Come and have a s

THE FOX

RETRO FRIDAY - Retro tunes. **DU M**

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

BANG - The big weekend party. Classics. House. Free entry by 11pm.

THE LION, WALSHALL

YOLO! - Gorgeous residents spinning house and classics. Earlybird drinks from £1.50 with free entry before 11pm. 10.30pm - 5.30am. **GORGEOUS CLUB, WOLVERHAMPTON**

TV PARTY NIGHT - A Men or TVs. Cross Dressers and. **THE GREENHOUSE, DARLSTON**

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promos until 11pm. Free entry before 11pm. **THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD**

FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

THE BELL, STOUBRIDGE

WEEKLY CABARET

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

START THE WEEKEND

PINK - Stone on Trent

TFI FRIDAY - A.F.

BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

EAST MIDLANDS

MAJOR NIGHT

HELSINKI, LEICESTER

PINK POUNDER - Every Friday night. **DU CRAIG** - £8 entry. £1 drink. **THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON**

LIFE IS A CABARET at Birmingham's Village Inn

If you're out on a Friday night and looking for some great entertainment, then look no further than Birmingham's award-winning Village Inn. June sees four great acts take to the stage. Kicking off the month's line-up is the fabulous Kelly Wilde on Friday the 7th, whilst the following week sees drag duo Glitter Lips take to the stage. Miss Penny gives it her all on Friday the 21st and gearing you up for pay weekend on Friday the 28th, it's Sandra.





DANCE ARENA



**AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY
29TH & 30TH AUGUST 2015**

tamu



**CAUSE &
AFFECT**



ARTFUL DODGER

**TOM ZANETTI &
TOM GARNETT**

*Marc
Spence*

**TROTTERS &
SUMMER JUNKIES**

**AGENT
SUMO**



CANVA • RUE JAY • DONKIE PUNCH • CHRIS K
WAYNE SCOTT FOX • CLINTON SHAW & RIC JAMES • FELTON
HOT LIKE DETROIT • BURKIE • JOE HUNT • DAVEY BOY
LISA SHARRED • TOMOLA • ANTIX • MARK WRIGHT
JADE MARIE • BENNY RICH • OHJAY • WAYNE H
A.D SUTTON • LARRY HAN • JOE CAMPBELL
BLANK KANVAS • TINY DEE • YAN • ELLIS P • JJ

SKY ONE
GOT TO DANCE
WINNERS

DUPLIC8

GO TO DANCE

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

FACE & BODY ART PANITER // FIREBREATHER // ANGLE GRINDERS // CONFETTI CANNONS // LIGHT SHOW
DANCERS // BEACH BALLS // ICE CREAM VAN // BURGER VAN // CD GIVE AWAY // + LOADS MORE

THE CAR PARK

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TIME 2PM - MIDNIGHT • PRICE £15 ALL DAY

DRESS CODE FRESH & FUNKY • TWITTER @DJFELTON1983 @CLINTONSHAW

TICKETS WWW.THETICKETSSELLERS.CO.UK



**SO IT
GOES**



EXIII
CONVULS TONY

TheTicketSellers.co.uk
AND BUREAU 0844 870 0000

SKIDDLE.COM
weekends matter

The Brum Bank Holiday DANCE ARENA is back!

Emulating the success of Birmingham Pride & Dance Arena, last year saw the debut of the August Bank Holiday weekend Dance Arena. And it's back this year with a bigger and better line-up of DJs on Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 August! Headline DJs include Tchami, Artful Dodger, Causa & Affect and many, many more. Tickets are on sale now at £15 per day and available from www.theticketsealers.co.uk BROMSGROVE STREET CAR PARK



BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS with DJ Dan from 2am it's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions
EDEN BAR

THE ATTIC Available for hire. Call the venue for more info 0121 622 4256
MISSING BAR

DJ DAN TAKES YOU BACK TO THE '80s

If you fancy turning back the clock thirty-odd years, then head down to Eden Bar in Birmingham, where DJ Dan takes it back to the 1980s. Expect some of the biggest tunes from the decade, not to mention cheap drinks promotions! **EDEN - BIRMINGHAM**

BACK TO THE 80s 2am-4am
EDEN BAR

BEARBRUM - Sat 22 August - A night for bears, their friends and admirers featuring exclusive drink offers and the chance to win half of the door take
EDEN

IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE INN

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Village Inn in Birmingham. You've got two floors of partying - and a great range of music, to boot. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!
THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors, 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonic in The Village Underground
THE VILLAGE INN

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE NIGHTINGALE

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Nightingale Club in Birmingham. You've got three floors of partying, split across four great rooms of music. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!
THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DANCE ARENA - Sat 29 August - Birmingham's Dance Arena returns to the car park on Bromsgrove Street with an amazing lineup of DJs including Tchami, Artful Dodger, Causa & Affect and more! Tickets from www.theticketsealers.co.uk
CAR PARK, BROMSGROVE STREET

DANNY BEARD - Sat 1 August - A night of fun cabaret with Drag idol 2015 winner, Danny Beard
EDEN

FABULOUS SATURDAYS Get the red carpet treatment with your host and hostess Cherub and Miss Hattie James, keeping you entertained with podium dances and fantastic music. Entry £5 - 10pm until 3am with the first 25 customers having FREE ENTRY
THE CORE CLUB

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS in The Attic plus music from across the decades
THE ATTIC

STAY L8R AT BRUM'S VILLAGE INN!

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Village Inn in Birmingham. You've got two floors of partying - and a great range of music to boot. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!
THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte Open until 8am every Saturday

THE VILLAGE INN

MARY MAC - Sat 29 August - A night of fun cabaret with the tartan wrapped Scott sh entertainer Mary Mac
EDEN

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU featuring the biggest remixes, absolute anthems, dance classics, disco, house and commercial. Featuring Twiggy and sexy door boys. Open until 4am
EDEN

ROGUE MINOGUE - Sat 8 August - A night of fun cabaret with Kylie Minogue tribute act, Rogue Minogue
EDEN

PEARL - Sat 1 August - Live PA from RuPaul's Drag Race star Pearl. Tickets from www.theticketsealers.co.uk
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SATURDAY SESSIONS WITH SIMON BAKER

Every Saturday night sees veteran DJ Simon Baker take to the decks at The Loft Lounge in Birmingham, ensuring your evening gets off to a great start. It's the perfect way to relax - or to get the party started!
THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm.
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ, playing the best of everything
SEDAWALK

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4)
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Every Saturday
CLUB CHIC

DJ MIKI 1st Sat month
EQUATOR BAR

DJ PARTY NIGHT Open from 3pm

THE FOX

#JUST SAYING Get in the party

BAR JESTER

KARAOKE Every Saturday
THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

SLAG 10pm-6am. Earlybird drinks from £1.50. DJ Paul Bryant, James Levett & Josh B. Plus weekly quests
GORGEIOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

BIG NIGHT OUT Big DJs, top tunes 8pm-3.30am. Plus video classics in the cabaret lounge
THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT Drink promotions 9.45. Free entry before 1
THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

THE SATURDAY NIGHT OUT

At the heart of the party

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

INCLUSION with big name Birmingham & UK DJs
THE BELL, STOUBRIDGE

NOT TO MISS 11pm. Tanja F. Cabaret Show 4pm
PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

WEEKLY CABARET with E. F. F.
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT

1st & 2nd Sat month
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CLUB NIGHT Every Saturday
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

HELINSKI, LEICESTER

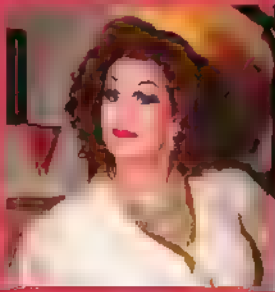
Drag Idol 2015 winner DANNY BEARD heads to Brum's Eden

In another first for Birmingham's award-winning gay venue, Eden, there's some top cabaret heading your way on Saturday 1 August. The winner of this year's Drag Idol contest, Danny Beard, will be joining the lovely customers for a night of camp fun! We won't be missing this one, that's for sure!
EDEN - BIRMINGHAM



BANK HOLIDAY CABARET at Birmingham's Village Inn

We love Bank Holiday Weekends, and August's is our second favourite after May's. The Village Inn in Birmingham is hosting a special Bank Holiday Sunday cabaret special on the 30th of August, featuring the fantastic Kara Van Park! There's no excuse not to pop along as most of you will have the next day off too! So extend your party weekend, head down to the Village and enjoy the show - it's gonna be a corker!



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two.
THE LOFT LOUNGE

TOPSIE REDFERN AND AN AFTERNOON BASH

Eden Bar in Birmingham are laying on a special Sunday treat this month (Sun 23 Aug) with the award winning Topsy Redfern taking to the stage for an afternoon of entertainment and a sing-a-long-a-cinema experience!

EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

BANK HOLIDAY CABARET - Sun 30 Aug - Bank Holiday special cabaret with the one and only Kara Van Park. This is not to be missed
EDEN

DANCE ARENA - Sun 30 August - Birmingham's Dance Arena returns to the car park on Bromsgrove Street with an amazing lineup of DJs including Tchami, Arfui Dodger, Cause & Effect and more! Tickets from www.theticketsealers.co.uk
CAR PARK, BROMSGROVE STREET

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikko Every Sunday
EDEN BAR

DRAG NIGHT - Sun 30 Aug - Missing Bar's 6th annual Drag Night featuring Danny Beard, Miss Penny, Twiggy and LaQueela with their very own Drag Race
MISSING BAR

SUNDAYS AT MISSING

Head down to Birmingham's Missing Bar every Sunday and enjoy some live cabaret from the one and only Miss Penny. She'll be hosting two shows at 8.30pm and 10.30pm. Go on, just do it!

MISSING BAR

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS Cabaret every Sunday hosted by

the one and only Miss Penny on stage at 8.30pm and 10.30pm
MISSING BAR

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect hangover cure from 9am just £7.95. Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95
THE LOFT LOUNGE

TOPSIE REDFERN - Sun 23 Aug - Afternoon sing-a-long-a-cinema with the award winning Topsy Redfern
EDEN

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER from 1pm. Cure that hangover and choose from a variety of meals with all you can eat for only £6.50
SIDEWALK

CHILL OUT Late night chill out
THE FOX

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY with 6 Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10-11pm
BAR JESTER

THREE COURSE LUNCH only £7.50
THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY Party with the band
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILL OUT After the party
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

THE PARTY LOUNGE Party with the band or chill. Drag hostess
LION BAR & CLUB, WALBALL

KARAOKE & DJ Party with the band
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

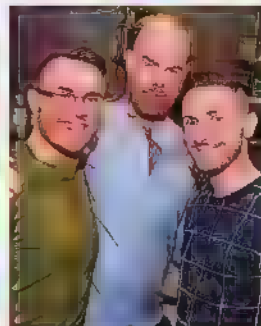
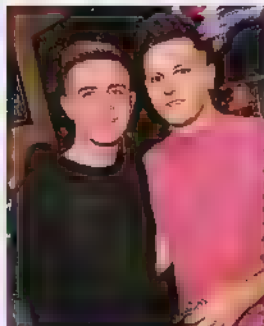
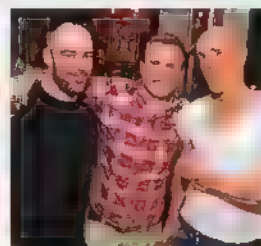
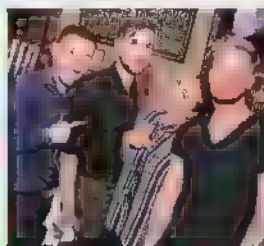
RANDOM PARTY NIGHT Party with the band
THREE FURNACES, Telford

EAST MIDLANDS

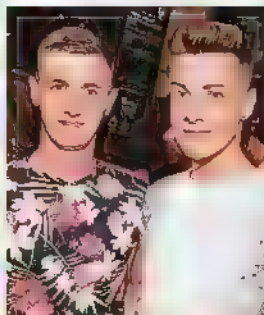
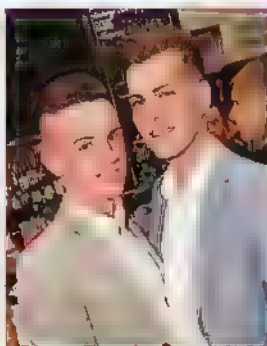
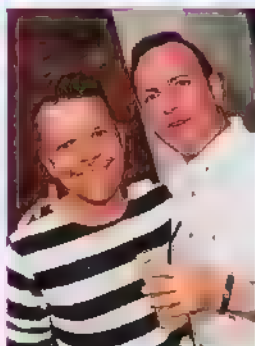
BRUNCH CLUB Brunch for £5 with unlimited soft drinks, midday 3pm
RAINBOW & DOVE, LEICESTER



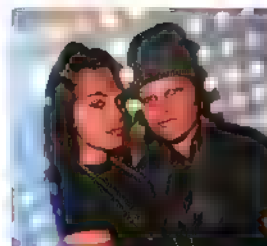
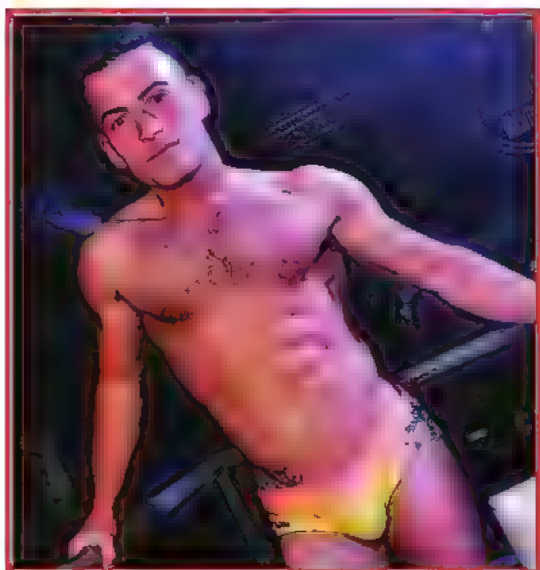
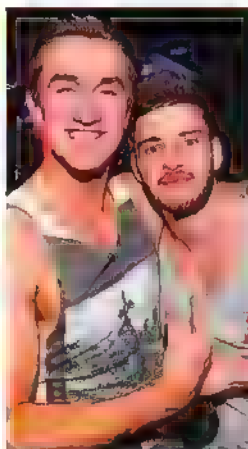
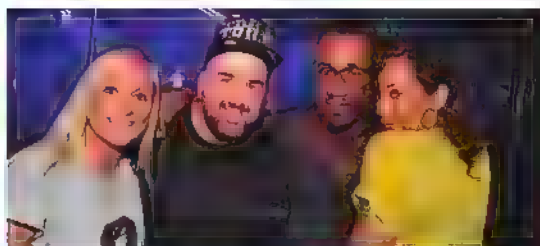
The Loft Lounge: Grab a cocktail and a great night out!



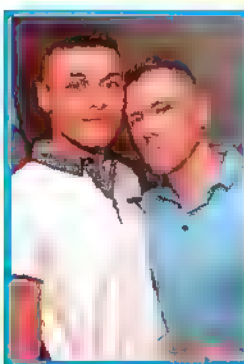
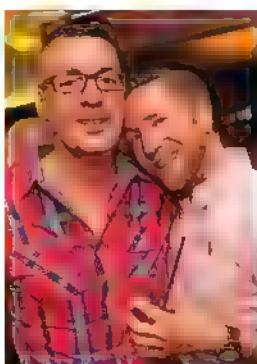
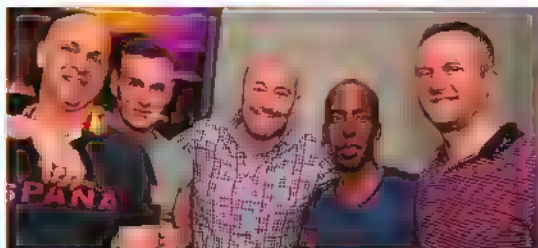
More photos on our [Facebook](#)



The Nightingale: Late night clubbing in Birmingham



From Boys to Men at Birmingham's **Eden Bar!**



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EDEN AUGUST

edenedeneden

Open every day, 116 Sherlock Street Birmingham B5 6NB 0121 622 1953 | www.theedenbar.co.uk

SAT
1st

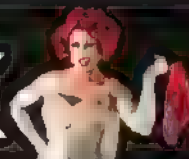


WINNER
DANNY BEARD



THURSDAY
6th

La Voix



WITH A
NEW START TIME
OF 10PM
DON'T MISS ME
MY DARLINGS!

FRIDAY
7th

with your host MISS PENNY!

Cabaret
KARA VAN PARK

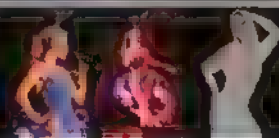
Champagne reception,
Topless waiter, Raffle, Buffet,

**Stripper
RUMBLE**

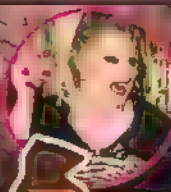
SATURDAY
8th

ROGUE MINOGUE

Kylie Minogue Tribute Act



THURSDAY
20th



Early Registration on Thurs - furfest2015@gmail.com
**Myra
Dubols**
Comedy Artists

FURFEST WEEKEND

SATURDAY
22nd



No Membership Fee - Large NEW Bar with
Exclusive Drinks Offers
Same Great Atmosphere
WIN 50% of Door Take!

FRIDAY
21st

MidsBears
Monthly Meet
In the Marquee
Special Drinks
Offers All Night



SUNDAY
23rd

Afternoon sing a long a cinema with the
Award winning **Topsie Redfern**



with special guest
**Paul
Middleton**

40th WINNER - Best Midlands Gay Venue for Men

THURSDAY
27th

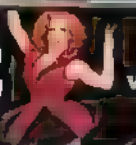
La Voix



WITH A
NEW START TIME
OF 10PM
DON'T MISS ME
MY DARLINGS!

SATURDAY
29th

MARY MAC



Tartan wrapped
Scottish Entertainer
with her show packed
full of hit songs
and cheeky banter.

OUR NEWLY
REFURBISHED
**MARQUEE
AVAILABLE
FOR HIRE**

PRIVATE GARDEN
SMOKING AREA
SOUND & LIGHT

EVERY THURS



90s HITS WITH
DJ DAN
GREAT ATMOSPHERE

EVERY FRI & SUN



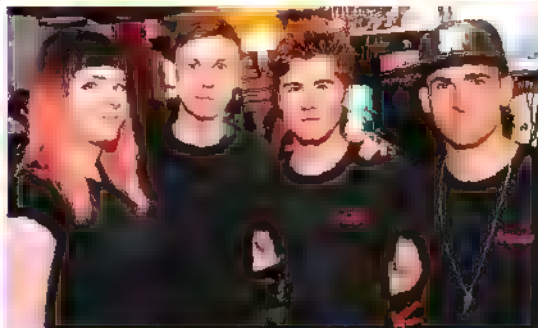
**KARAOKE &
DISCO DJ NIKKI**
COME ALONG & SING
WITH A FRIENDLY
REGULAR CROWD

EVERY SAT

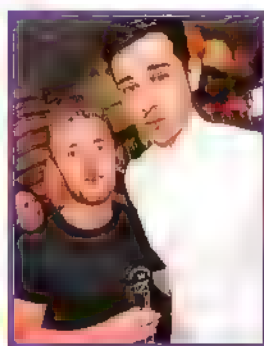
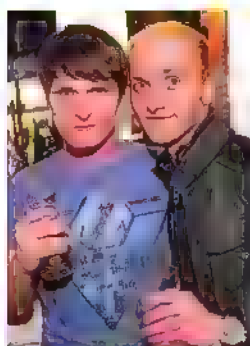


**80s HITS WITH
DJ DAN**
POP & DANCE TILL 2
80s FROM 2-4 AM &
CRAZY DRINK PRICES

Make it a mad night out at Birmingham's **Missing!**



More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Four Queens, One night!

MISSING BARS 6TH ANNUAL



DRAG NIGHT

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST



FEATURING:

DANNY BEARD

UK DRAG IDOL
WINNER 2015

MISS PENNY

THE QUEEN
OF GREGGS

TWIGGY

HILLARIOUS
& UNIQUE

LAQUEEFA

QUEEN OF
THE QUEEN

WITH OUR VERY
OWN...
DRAG RACE

(QUITE LITERALLY! - SEE OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFO)

Missing

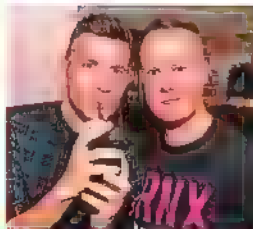
WWW.MISSINGBAR.CO.UK  YOURPARTYBAR

0121 622 4256 INFO@MISSINGBAR.CO.UK

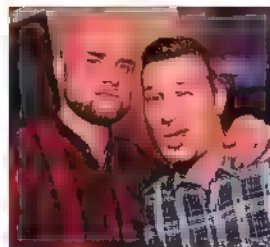
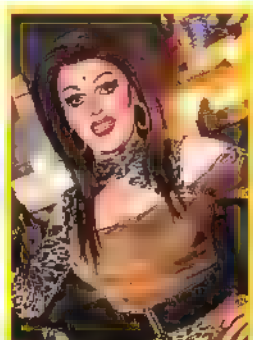
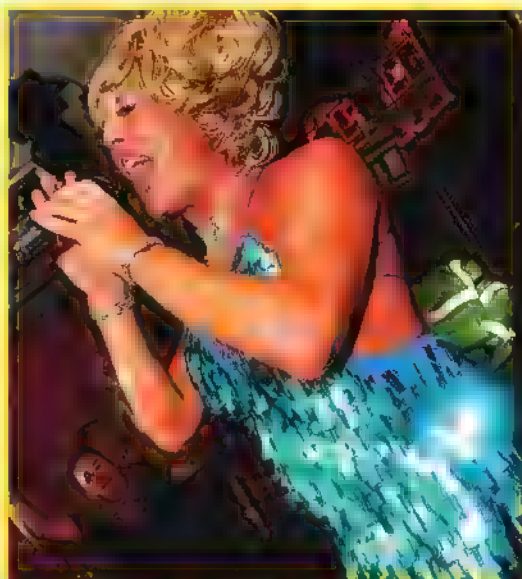
MISSING BAR, 43 BROMSGROVE STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B5 4ND

MISS PENNY PICTURE: PHOTO:WWW.IDOL-RYDER.COM

Life is a cabaret at Birmingham's **The Village Inn**



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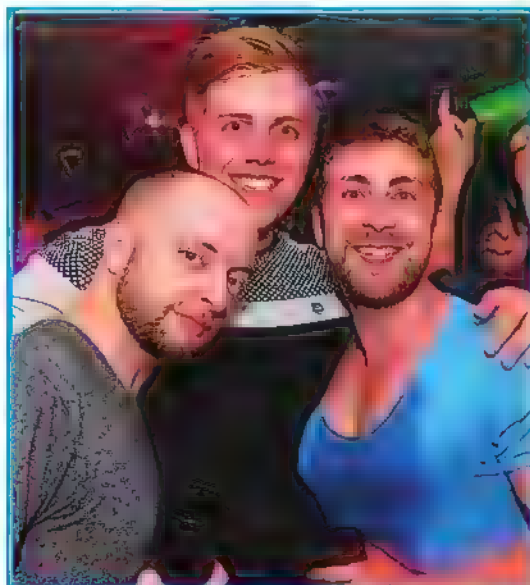


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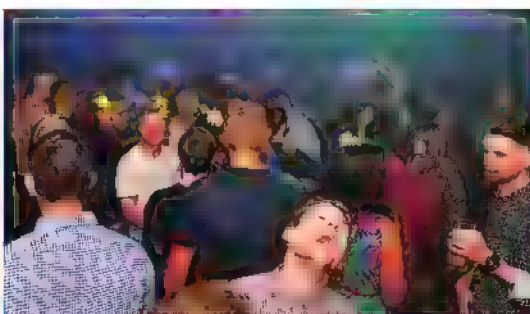
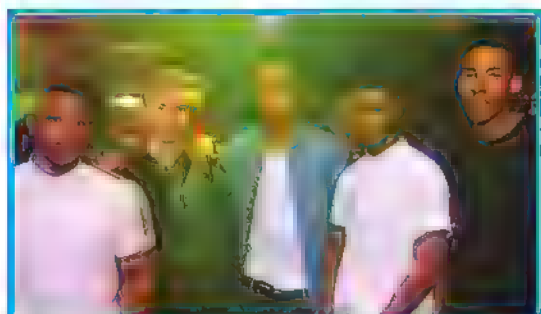
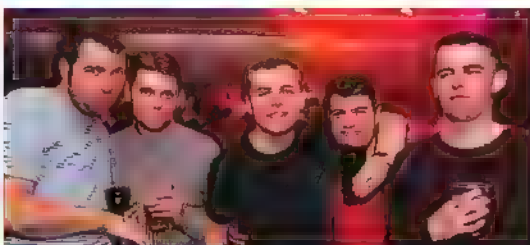
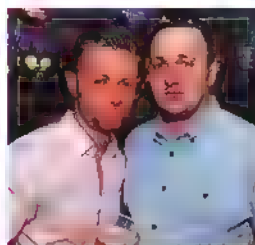


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Crush

Maureen Chadwick's sizzling comic musical set in an all-girls boarding school in the 1960s

Toe-tapping tunes, witty lyrics, soaring ballads and, er, heaps of hockey sticks are all present and correct in this high-energy new musical from the pen of Maureen Chadwick. When a 1960s boarding school's proud tradition of free expression is threatened by the arrival of a conservative headmistress, it's left to the Upper Sixth to save the day. Music and lyrics are by the hugely talented Kath Gotts, whose previous work includes *Bad Girls The Musical*.

Beigrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 4 - Sat 19 September



The Bodyguard

Alexandra Burke stars as Rachel Marron in this award-winning musical based on the blockbuster 1990s Hollywood movie starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston

When ex-Secret Service agent Frank Farmer is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker, sparks soon begin to fly between the pair. Each expects to hold the whip-hand in the relationship; neither expects to fall in love.

Featuring classic numbers including *One Moment in Time*, *I Wanna Dance With Somebody* and the legendary *I Will Always Love You*, the show received mixed reviews from the critics when it opened in 2012 but has proved to be a real hit with its audiences.

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 5 August - Sat 5 September



Tom Jones

Tom maybe doesn't get quite as many pairs of ladies' knickers tossed in his general direction nowadays, but one thing that definitely hasn't changed is the depth, quality and resonance of his truly incredible vocal. Jones here gives another no-doubt powerhouse performance that's certain to be awash with greatest hits, from swinging '60s numbers such as *It's Not Unusual* and *What's New Pussycat?* through to post-reinvention cracklers like *Sex Bomb*.

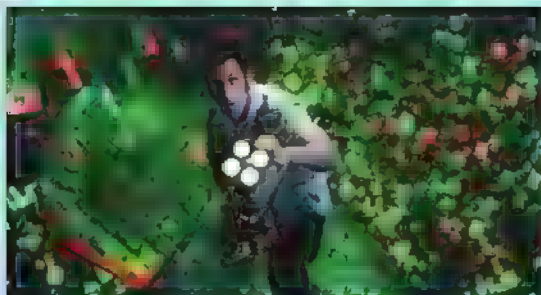
Betley Court Farm, Cheshire, Fri 14 August



Funeral For A Friend

Funeral For A Friend are a five-piece post-hardcore band from Wales. They've released six studio albums, including *Casually Dressed & Deep In Conversation* (2003) and *Tales Don't Tell Themselves* (2007). Their latest offering, *Chapter And Verse* - released earlier this year - has been described by promoters as 'a raw and energetic effort that propels the band to a whole new level, whilst simultaneously raising the bar for everyone else'.

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Sat 1 August



Pixels **CERT 12a** (106 mins)

Starring Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Michelle Monaghan, Peter Dinklage, Josh Gad, Brian Cox Directed by Chris Columbus (USA)

You're not going to believe this, but the world is under attack. This time the aliens have taken exception to a time capsule sent into outer space by NASA, in particular video-feeds of classic arcade games, which they interpret as a declaration of war. So, in keeping with the games, the aliens launch models for their various assaults based on Pac-Man, Space Invaders and their ilk. So, in order to fight back, President Will Cooper (James) enlists the help of his childhood friends, all of whom were rather good at saving the earth at their local video game arcade... **Out 12 August**

The Gift **CERT tbc**

Starring Jason Bateman, Rebecca Hall, Joel Edgerton Directed by Joel Edgerton (USA, Australia)

Simon and Robyn (Bateman, Hall) are a happily married couple whose lives are turned around with the arrival of a friend from Simon's past. The unwanted visitor (Edgerton) insists on bringing the couple gifts but their meaning is not entirely welcome. The actor Joel Edgerton (Exodus: Gods and Kings, Kinky Boots) makes his directorial debut with this thriller from his own screenplay. **Out 7 August**



The Bad Education Movie **CERT tbc**

Starring Jack Whitehall, Harry Enfield, Mathew Horne, Sarah Solemani, Jeremy Irvine, Iain Glen Directed by Elliot Hegarty (UK)

The Marlborough-educated comedian Jack Whitehall actually wrote the screenplay to this spin-off of his TV series Bad Education. He reprises his role of Ake Wickers, the worst teacher to grace the British educational establishment, who decides to take his class on a school trip to Cornwall after they've finished their GCSEs. Inevitably mayhem ensues. **Out 21 August**



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7.30pm: Opening Ceremony.
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Double Screening

followed by discussion

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pride

Survey reveals shocking 'gay cure' statistics

Research released by LGBT equality charity Stonewall has revealed that LGBT people are facing unhealthy attitudes from health and social care professionals.

The YouGov research conducted for Stonewall, which surveyed 3,001 health and social care workers across Britain, found that an astonishing 10% of health and social care workers directly involved in patient care have witnessed colleagues expressing the belief that lesbian, gay and bisexual people can be 'cured', a figure that rises to 22% among those healthcare workers in London.

Workplace bullying was also found to be commonplace in health and social work. Three in five (60%) staff directly involved in patient care, who hear discriminatory remarks about lesbian, gay and bisexual people, do not report it and a quarter (26%) of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) staff said they have personally experienced homophobic or biphobic bullying from colleagues in the last five years.

Trans people are also subject to discrimination, with negative remarks or offensive language such as 'tranny' and 'she-male' being heard by 20% of patient

facing staff from their colleagues. Evidence also shows that trans issues often remain unaddressed in training, with only a quarter of those who received equality and diversity training stating that the legal rights of trans staff and patients were covered.

Public bodies have a legal duty to advance equality and eliminate discrimination. However, many staff say they have received little or no equality and diversity training, and some of those who were surveyed even questioned its relevance. Almost three in four (72 per cent) patient-facing staff have not received training on the health needs of LGB people, the rights of same-sex partners and parents, or how to use language that is inclusive. Shockingly 28 per cent of doctors say they don't feel confident they can respond to the specific care needs of trans patients, and 15 per cent say they don't feel confident in their ability to meet the needs of LGB patients.

Practitioners also showed a lack of awareness of the relevance of sexual orientation to healthcare needs, with almost six in ten (57 per cent) of those with direct responsibility for patient care saying they don't consider sexual orientation to be relevant to one's health needs.

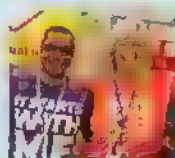
Trade Sexual Health to host Health & Wellbeing Marquee at Leicester Pride

This year's Leicester Pride sees the return of Trade's Health & Wellbeing Marquee.

Alongside loads of fun activities and stalls, Trade will again be bringing local health charities and the local sexual health clinic to Victoria Park, making it even easier to stay on top of your health by getting a full STI test.

"We're hoping this year's marquee will show how you can 'Get Involved' with Trade, be it accessing services or volunteering," says health promotion worker Makinder Chahal. "It'll also give you the chance to tell us what you want to see and how you can help make it happen. So if you're looking to test, want to pick up some safer-sex packs or fancy volunteering, why not drop in?"

The marquee will be open at Leicester Pride from 12pm till 5pm on Saturday 5 September.



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TRADE

Local homeless charity teams up with NHS to increase Mental Health training

The long-established SIFA Fireside - a charity supporting the homeless and socially disadvantaged people of Birmingham - has teamed up with Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (BSMHFT) to provide mental health first aid training to external agencies that work with homeless people.

The initiative takes the form of three-hour and full-day courses. The courses are funded by BSMHFT and will be delivered at SIFA Fireside in Digbeth. The training is available to a range of organisations, charities and individuals that work with homeless people with mental health problems. These include housing associations, hostel staff, volunteers, charities, faith groups, other statutory agencies, patients and carers.

SIFA Fireside has recently seen an increase in the numbers of LGBT clients accessing its services. The charity, which earlier this year received funding through Birmingham Pride, is currently working with 20 LGBT clients. It is also actively engaging and promoting its services to those who are vulnerably housed within Birmingham's LGBT community.

The charity's centre is a safe and trusted



destination for vulnerable people to visit. Clients can access breakfast and lunch, help and support with benefits, housing advice, emotional support and training courses. They can also report Hate Crimes and access support in looking for work.

As well as providing people with one-to-one support, the charity also hosts group activities such as drama and creative writing, both of

which encourage communication and teamwork.

SIFA Fireside will formally launch its new mental health first aid training initiative to coincide with World Homeless & World Mental Health Day on Friday 9 October. Interested parties can learn more and book a place via SIFA Fireside's website at www.sifafireside.co.uk.

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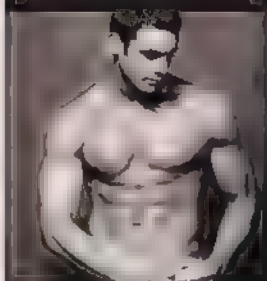
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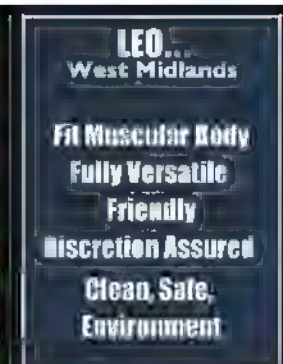
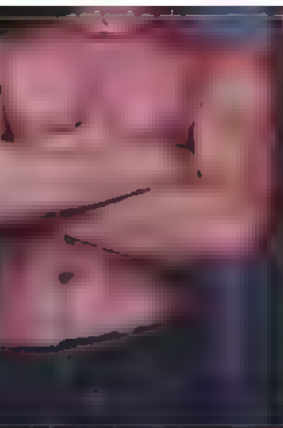
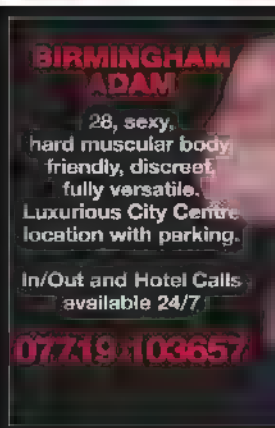
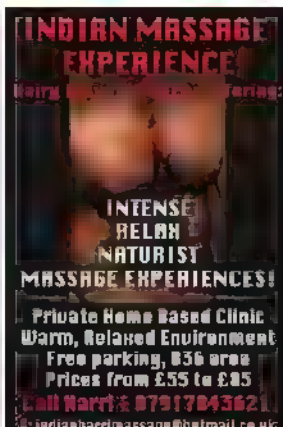
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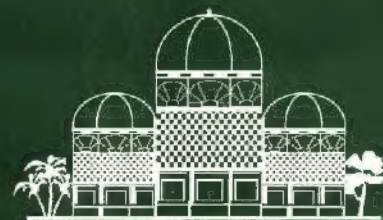
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THE EDITOR'S NOTE by Ryan Humphreys

Pride, sexual health and goodbyes

I can't believe it's August already! No sooner has summer arrived than Autumn's knocking on the door. I hope that, like the Midlands Zone team, you've been able to head out and soak up the sunshine over the past month? We've certainly enjoyed attending all manner of outdoor LGBT events during these last few weeks!

August outdoor fun



Sam Bailey performs at Leicester Pride

And there are plenty more open-air gay shenanigans to enjoy this month too (if you're thinking of smut, stop it - I don't mean those sort of gay shenanigans!). Attractions include the Shrewsbury Pink Picnic - a great event where you're sure to meet some friendly people in picturesque surroundings. The Gay Family Pride event in Staffordshire, meanwhile, will be attracting all manner of LGBT families.

And don't forget Walsall Pride - taking place towards the end of August - an event that's really established itself on the Midlands gay events calendar since debuting in 2012.

As we go to print, the first ever Chesterfield Pride is only a couple of days away - we'll be crossing our fingers the event gets off to a great start - while last month saw the first ever Coventry Pride take place. Organisers of the festival hailed it an emphatic success and are already making plans for next year's get-together.

New HIV initiative

Speaking of Coventry, 10 GP surgeries in the city have made HIV testing a routine part of registering with a doctor. All patients registering with any one of the participating surgeries will be offered a finger-prick blood test,

with results available in less than a minute. Coventry has the highest prevalence of HIV in the West Midlands, so this really is a great initiative.

Getting complacent?

And on the subject of health, Public Health England has revealed that the number of sexually transmitted infections being spread in gay men is soaring. Figures for 2014 showed a 46% increase in syphilis infections, 32% in gonorrhoea and 26% in chlamydia. It's also being reported - not surprisingly, given those stats - that there were 'high levels of condomless sex' in general and 'rapid' transmission of infections in HIV-positive men. The figures are disturbing, to say the least. They're also a clear sign that the advances which continue to be made in terms of treating HIV are having the unwanted effect of making people increasingly complacent about their sexual health, and indeed that of their sexual partner.

A fond farewell...



Along with the rest of the Midlands LGBT community, Zone was saddened to hear of the death of Missing Bar DJ Mykee Mackenzie. Mykee, whose real name was Michael Horton, won Best Bar DJ in the 2014 Midlands Zone Readers' Awards and was runner-up for the same award in 2015. He was a bright and popular guy who will be sorely missed by everybody who knew him. Zone sends its condolences and best wishes to Mykee's family and friends at this difficult time.



ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Relentlessly Gay

It's all been happening in the good old US of A! Julie Baker from Baltimore decided to brighten things up a bit when she decorated her garden with a string of rainbow lights. But days later she received a letter from a 'concerned neighbour' suggesting that her garden was becoming 'relentlessly gay'. The letter went on: "Myself and others in the neighbourhood ask that you tone it down. This is a Christian area and there are children. Keep it up and I will be forced to call the police on you! Your kind need to have respect for GOD."

But instead of backing down to her neighbour's demands, Julie started a crowdfunding campaign to make her garden even more 'relentlessly gay'. She wrote on her Go Fund Me page: "I opened my door and found a note from my neighbour regarding a set of rainbow jar solar lights hanging in my yard. Needless to say... I need more rainbows... Many, many more rainbows... So, I am starting this fundraiser so I can work to make my home even more 'relentlessly gay'. Put simply, I am a widow and the mother of four children and I WILL NOT relent to hatred. Instead, I will battle it with beauty and laughter and love, wrapped around my home, yard and family!" The project has so far raised nearly £8,000, with one contributor commenting: "I don't live nearby at all, but if I was close, I'd

volunteer my kids and myself to help make your place as relentlessly gay as possible. Love thy neighbour!" Suggestions for how to make the garden that little bit more 'gay' include a rainbow unicorn fountain and motion sensor that plays It's Raining Men. I wasn't aware at the time but when I was growing up in north Manchester we lived next door to a man who was, with hindsight, 'relentlessly straight'. How I wish that rather than staring over the fence at his empty bottles of Newcastle Brown, hearing the tinny cassette recorder blasting out Black Sabbath and watching him kick his growling pit bull terrier in his socks and open-toed sandals, I could instead have seen a rainbow unicorn fountain playing songs from the shows. Give me 'relentlessly gay' anytime!



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